Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 36 | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you and your loved one plan to stay in, eat out, or do a little of both this Valentine's Day?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Silver Anniversary

Grace Christian Ministries president Rev. Raymond Kinsella and congregation members invite the community to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Local...Page 15

Year of the Tiger

The Chinese Association of Saipan will share the celebration of the Chinese New Year to the community.

Advertising Feature... Page 22

Mayer Apology

John Mayer is apologizing for his mouth.

Life & Style...Page 34

Up to 5,900-percent hike in business fees proposed anew

As House Ways and Means works on 7 'money' measures

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) is proposing to increase at least 17 types of business license fees by 100 percent to 5,900 percent, but Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan said yesterday that the largest business organization in the CNMI is opposed to any fee or tax hikes.

Cabrera

"We are not in favor of any increase in fees or taxes in any form, size or shape. We'd rather see cuts in government expenses," Brennan told *Saipan Tribune*

See HIKE on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Julia Claire Martin, left, legislative assistant in the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) in Washington, D.C., meets with members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Hard Rock Café in Garapan for an informal chat on issues related to the CNMI's transition to a federal immigration system.

Feds' slow action on federalization issues frustrates businesses

As wait for final regs on transitional workers, investors rules continue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesses expressed frustration and outrage yesterday over federal agencies' slow action on concerns related to federalization and continued access to foreign workers, including the U.S. Department of Labor's failure to send at least one representative to the CNMI to directly answer questions on prevailing wage determinations.

See SLOW on Page 4

Demapan: I did not resign as press secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Press Secretary Angel A. Demapan said yesterday that he has not resigned from his post, adding that he intends to serve as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary.

Demapan

"A local newspaper ran an article today alleging that I had resigned from my post as press secretary. The general public must be duly informed that such allegations are

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

Jhaza Mirano, 11, checks out the artificial roses on sale for their Valentine shopping at the National Office Supply along Beach Road yesterday afternoon. For the first time in 77 years, the 2010 Chinese New Year will fall on Valentine's Day on Sunday, Feb. 14, and retailers are seeing brisk sales on items related to the two holidays. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Five-point solution' to Fund problems bared. PAGE 2

Six defendants in human smuggling cases to post bail. **PAGE 3**

One For Me
&
One For My Honey!
Sign up for two plans starting at $20 and get your 2nd phone for FREE!
Some conditions apply. New activations only. 24 month contract required.
iCONNECT
www.iconnectsaipan.com / Guam - Saipan Office 888.8888

Local

'Five-point solution' to Fund problems bared

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Retirees Association bared to its members a five-point solution currently being discussed by the negotiating panels of the Retirement Fund and the Fitial administration pursuant to the court judgment issued last year.

CRA secretary Oscar Camacho pointed out that though the identified "solutions" are aimed at addressing the issues of the Fund, the group is hesitant to give its full support citing a number of considerations.

Last Monday CRA filed a motion to intervene in the ongoing settlement discussion on the $231.6 million debt incurred to the Fund by the central government. This after it revealed that retirees have not been fully briefed or kept abreast of any progress on the said settlement negotiations.

As of November 2009, government's debt to the Fund jumped to over $280 million in unpaid employer's contribution.

Camacho, in his e-mail to its members, said the negotiating teams have identified the pension obligation bond as among the top five items that would help address the debt payment for the Fund.

However, Camacho said that since there are two versions of a legislative initiative in the Legislature, the administration-drafted bill appears to cover a more comprehensive legislation.

But since this may take three more years, Camacho urged that there must be an immediate action to take to sustain the payout to retirees.

CRA also expressed its hesitation on the proposed opening of a 457K plan—or savings plan—for members.

Camacho said both teams are considering a hybrid 401K or 457K plan wherein Defined Benefit Plan members are to be allowed to invest.

"This is now available to everyone so why are they pitching something that is already in place? Is it because benefits are to be reduced or capped?" Camacho told members.

Camacho also disclosed that annuity through a third-party administrator is also being considered by the negotiating teams.

"This may alleviate some of the fears feeding off the uncertainty and lack of faith in the CNMI government's ability to keep its promise. Say you are a Statesider and completely want nothing to do with the CNMI system maybe the Fund can agree to buy an annuity for you…or something to this effect with certain age groups or something," Camacho explained.

The Omnibus legislation was also bared as among the five solutions tossed by both negotiating teams. This legislation, if enacted, will forfeit the membership to the Fund of a person who is convicted of a crime and would not be allowed to retire.

CRA expressed support to the proposed measure citing the money to be provided to the "criminal" is retirees' money.

Last item in the five-point solution is the proposed "soft freeze" that CRA believes will curtail benefits and reduce or limit accrual of benefits to a certain degree that will jeopardize the Fund.

No to receivership

Camacho said members who felt left out on the progress of the negotiations will insist on knowing the details of the five-point solution tossed around by both teams.

He pointed out the need to have an appointed CRA member to the board of trustees, the reason why the group aggressively recruit a thousand members.

Camacho also expressed opposition to any plan to put the Fund into a receivership, citing the option as similar approach to filing for bankruptcy.

"Receivership entails winding down of businesses similar to filing for bankruptcy…the only difference is that one is forced to do it and other volunteered because of no choice. If the Fund is say 40 percent funded, imagine what a receiver could reasonably do: he could cut your pension to 40 cents to the dollar," he told members.

Planning a weekend getaway? Or any other day?
CALL US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION.
CHALAN KANOA BEACH HOTEL
P.O. Box 500356, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7829 Fax.: 234-6534
Website: www.ckbeachhotel.com
E-mail:ckbc@ite.net or ckbc1@ite.net

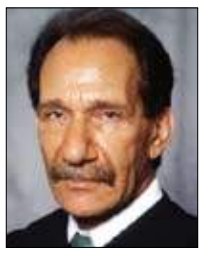
I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute
Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
■ Lens & Frames included
■ One-year warranty
■ Selected Brands
■ Lightweight lenses
■ $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals
Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Six defendants in human smuggling cases to post bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has granted the request of six defendants in two separate human smuggling cases to modify their bail for their temporary release.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman during late Wednesday afternoon's hearing ordered the temporary release of Qingmei Cheng upon posting $1,000 cash and $9,000 unsecured bond.


Wiseman

Wiseman imposed many conditions for Cheng's temporary liberty such as not leaving Saipan without court's permission and staying away from the ocean except for work or business.

The judge said Cheng shall have no direct or indirect contact with potential witnesses in the case and that she must not change her residence without court's permission.

"Stay away from all airports and seaports, including any boats or vessels whether on water or on land," Wiseman said.

Wiseman set the jury trial for May 10, 2010 at 9am.

Attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for Cheng, moved to modify the bail for the defendant. He requested that she be released on her own recognizance.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler had no objection to the release as long as the court would impose certain conditions.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals arrested recently by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam through a boat.

The 28-year-old Cheng was indicted with 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

Despite no federal authorization Department of Corrections' officials took out Cheng from DOC last Jan. 8 and brought to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's residence in Gualo Rai where she provided massage treatment to the governor.

See SIX on Next Page

Ex-Chamber president Deets sued over alleged 2003 debt

A businesswoman has sued former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry Deets for allegedly refusing to pay her $34,000 that she borrowed in 2003.

Elizabeth Lam sued Deets, also known as Kerry McKinney, for breach of promissory note.

Lam, through counsel Danilo T. Aguilar, asked the Superior Court to order Deets pay her the outstanding principal amount owing on the settlement agreement including accrued interest.

Lam demanded payment for attorney's fees and court costs.

Aguilar stated in the complaint that on Oct. 21, 2003 Deets executed a promissory note stating that she will return the sum of $34,000 by making 12 monthly payments of $3,000 commencing on February 2004 and ending January 2005.

The lawyer said the defendant made no payments.

Aguilar said the current ad-

See EX-CHAMBER on Next Page

TBK Auto Cares
TRANSMISSION PROBLEM?
COME AND SEE OUR TRANSMISSION SPECIALIZE!
NOW HIRING
HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC
OUTBOARD/MECHANIC
BODY REPAIR W/ PAINTING SKILL
Please contact us at 233-2288 Lower Base across former CUC building

Friendly Beauty Salon
"Because you deserve to look great."
Come in and experience the up-to-date technology of digital perm.
Cut & Style, Color, Hi-lites/Low-lites, Hair Rebonding, Hair Relaxes
Digital Perm, Make-up, Eyebrow Shaping, Waxing, Wedding packages also available

Edwin
Hairstylist
286-8549
Early appointment available
All walk-ins welcomed.
Look for Edwin, a 10-year professional hairdresser.
Cut and bring coupon to our Salon and get 50% price off!
Tel.: 234-8988, 898-1612
Located in Monsignor Guerrero Rd. between San Jose Mart and Feng Hua Store

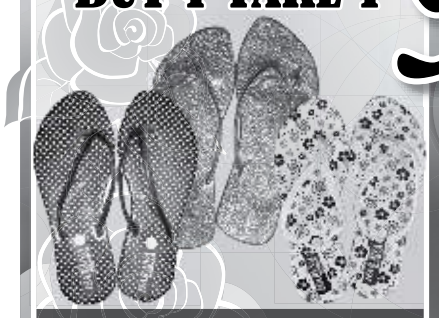
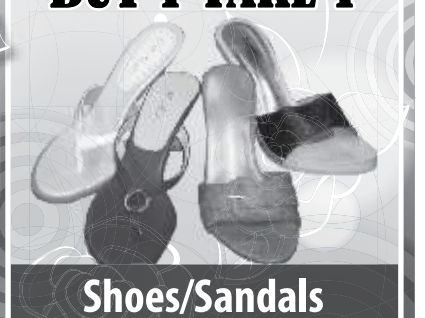
The Party Place!
POON'S RESTAURANT
Chinese and Indonesian Food
Serving Saipan since 1983
Valentine's Day
SPECIAL SET MENU (A)
$19.99 for Two Guests
Fried Squid with Salt & Chilli
Sweet & Sour Pork
Chinese Chop Suey
Garlic Fried Rice
Sweet Corn Soup with Crab Meat
Single Serving of Iced Lemon Tea
Reserve early!
Complimentary dessert for the first 10 reservations!
Try our All Day Specials for $4.50
Mon-Sun: Lunch: 10:30am-2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm-10:00pm
Call 234-6907

KEVIN'S VIDEO II
February Special

Rent 5 DVD's Get 2 FREE
Rent 6 DVD's Get 3 FREE
GOOD UNTIL OFFER LAST.

NEW ARRIVALS

Shoes/Sandals
ROSH'S
Valentine's
SPECIAL
Sale starts on Feb 12 – 15, 2010
Major Credits Cards and Government Checks Accepted
Opens: Mondays to Saturdays - 9:30 am to 9:00 pm
Sundays - 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.
NEW ARRIVALS

Ladies Blouses
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Ladies Slippers
Starting at $7.99
BUY 1 TAKE 1

Shoes/Sandals
Starting at
$9.99 - $19.99

McDonald's
17th Anniversary
RAFFLE DRAW
FREE! Raffle ticket for every $15.00 worth of food purchase on single transaction.
PRIZES TO WIN:
GRAND PRIZE: Round Trip ticket to Manila for Two (2)
Second Prize: (1) Laptop Computer
Third Prize: (1) Digital Camera
10 Consolation Prizes: Mc Donald's Gift Certificate worth $25.00 each
GRAND DRAW - MARCH 20, 2010
4PM at McDonald's Middle Road
RULES:
Only purchases made from February 15 to March 20, 2010 are valid for the raffle draw.
Lost or Damaged ticket is not replaceable
Only original ticket with McDonald's stamp will be honored
Strictly no photocopies of raffle ticket
Prizes cannot be converted or exchange for cash
Last day to drop the raffle ticket is on March 20, 2010 at 3:00 pm
Thank you! To all our valued customers for 17 years of continuous patronage.
i'm lovin' it

McDonald's Best
DANCE CREW
COMPETITION
A DANCE COMPETITION FOR ALL AGES HIP HOPPERS, BREAKERS, POPPERS, LOCKERS.... NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR AMAZING DANCING SKILLS!
We invite all group dancers (at least with 5 members or more) to join this exciting competition.
Registration begins on February 17 to 26, 2010 at McDonalds Office , 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
2 ELIMINATION DAY
March 6 and March 13, 6:00 pm at McDonald's Middle Road
3 Groups each elimination day will be chosen to compete on the finals which will be on March 20, 2010. All groups must register to participate.

PRIZES TO WIN
GRAND WINNER $500.00
2ND PRIZE $300.00
3RD PRIZE $200.00
For Inquiries please call 235-8761, look for Ana/Krishna

Fitial certifies 9 over-the-cap salaries, 6 vacancies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified nine over-the-cap salaries of doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center and assistant attorneys general at the Office of the Attorney General, and certified six vacancies at three government agencies.

Fitial

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000.

The law, however, gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

The 15 certifications, addressed to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), were issued on Jan. 29.

Fitial certified and granted the $68,000 annual salary of Assistant Attorney General Wayne Allen Hazlip and the $56,000 annual salary of Assistant Attorney General Gilbert Birnbrich.

Seven medical professionals at CHC also received over-the-cap salary certifications.

Dr. Eric Bernon, whose specialization is internal medicine and pediatrics, has been approved to receive an annual salary of $149,000, while Dr. John William Rodgers, also a pediatrician, has been granted a $130,000 annual salary.

Dr. Sherleen M. Osman, a nephrologist, has been approved to receive an annual salary of $200,000.

Fitial also granted and certified an $80,000 annual salary for Dr. Hazel Christine Brown, $100,000 for Dr. Janna Wilgus, and $160,000 for Dr. Esther Grace P. Kanayjorn-Na-Ayuthaya. They are all in family medicine.

The governor also approved a $65,000 annual salary for April Ricotta, the director of nursing at the Department of Public Health.

Vacancies

In separate letters to the presiding officers of the Legislature, Fitial certified that a nephrologist position at CHC is vacant and must be filled during the current continuing resolution.

"The filling of this vacant position is of vital importance for the efficient delivery of essential public services. Continuing appropriations are available for the full personnel cost associated with this vacancy," the governor said.

Two positions for assistant attorneys general at the OAG were also certified vacant, along with one chief prosecutor also at the OAG.

Fitial also certified as vacant one position for director of the Small Business Development Center, as well as director of the Central Statistics Division, both at the Department of Commerce.

EX-CHAMBER

From Page 3

dress of Deets is unknown.

"Despite plaintiff's efforts to good faith attempt to settle this matter, defendant refuses to make payments," he said.

"Defendant is in breach of the terms of the agreement, therefore plaintiff is entitled to a judgment against defendant to pay the outstanding balance on the date of entry of judgment," Aguilar added.

In January 2003, USPG Inc. sued Deets and her ex-husband in an effort to enforce its leasehold interests over some parcels of land. The plaintiff asked the Superior Court to evict Deets from the land and pay monetary damages.

Deets branded as harassment the lawsuit. It is not clear whether the case has been settled or resolved. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

false," he said, referring to an article that ran in the other paper yesterday.

The article quoted Fitial as saying that the press secretary resigned from his post, but Demapan said "it is very unfortunate that a media outlet would consider the dissemination of wrongful information in an effort to fulfill their special interests."

"It must be made clear that Governor Fitial never stated that I resigned from my post. If such is a matter of fact, I would sure like to see that reporter furnish a taped-recording of such a statement," said Demapan in a statement.

Demapan, who was introduced to the press in a Jan. 14 news briefing, said he is only on personal leave until today.

During his absence, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' legal counsel, Teresa Kim, became acting press secretary. Kim also served as acting press secretary when Charles Reyes stepped down last year to work at the U.S. Census Bureau.

"I have every intention of continuing to serve as the governor's press secretary and have high confidence in the administration's goals and visions for the Commonwealth. I remain cognizant that I am serving

SIX

From Page 3

Cheng was promptly returned to the DOC after providing treatment to the governor.

The U.S. government requested the court to conduct evidentiary hearing over the release. The court granted the request, but later voided the order for evidentiary hearing and quashed the U.S. government's subpoenas sent to Fitial and four DOC officials.

Meanwhile, also during late Wednesday afternoon's hearing in federal court Wiseman allowed the temporary release of the five defendants in the other alleged human smuggling case.

Wiseman ordered that defendants Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Shizu Huang, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhan be released on $2,500 unsecured bond.

The judge, however, imposed conditions such as not leaving Saipan and not changing address without court's permisson.

Wiseman also ordered the defendants to stay away from boats and stay at least 200 feet away from the ocean or any part of the ocean.

The U.S. government opposed granting bail "at this time."

The five defendants, all Chinese nationals, were arrested by federal agents on Rota last Jan. 30 for allegedly attempting to unlawfully enter Guam by boarding two inflatable boats. The defendants pleaded not guilty. Their jury trial was set for April 12, 2010 at 9am.

SLOW

From Page 1

Although businesses lauded the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, particularly its component agency U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service for making their presence felt in the CNMI, they said the final regulations on both the transitional worker regulations and the investor rules have yet to be released.

"We're basically without any tools to maintain our workers," said Atty. Maya Kara.

Kara's concerns were echoed by fellow business representatives.

Kathryn Barry of KB Communications said DHS did a good job in sending people out here to answer questions and conduct public outreach programs.

"Not all people were happy about the answers but at least they got answers," she said.

Kara and Barry were among the 19 business representatives who met yesterday with Julia Claire Martin, legislative assistant in the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

They asked questions and shared concerns about issues related to the CNMI's transition to a federal immigration system.

Martin, who is visiting the CNMI for the first time since working in Sablan's office in Washington, D.C., took note of the business community's concerns, saying Sablan's office will do its best to have these concerns communicated to federal agencies.

"We've also been frustrated that some (federal) agencies are slow to act (on CNMI concerns). They had years to get this together. I hope with us there, we'll be able to put pressure on them," Martin said, adding, however, that Sablan's office is acting "very cautiously" on these matters.

She also suggested to the Chamber of Commerce to put all its concerns in one short letter that consolidates all the key concerns, instead of sending multiple letters that run several pages long each.

Kara said it is "outrageous" and "unprecedented" that federal agencies such as U.S. Labor "have not done their homework," given that the federalization law was signed in May 2008.

Martin said Sablan asked U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to send a representative from her department to the CNMI who can directly answer concerns by residents, businesses and the local government.

Many of those in attendance at the informal meeting yesterday also asked for U.S. Labor's physical presence here.

"We're just at a point of frustration where we can't stand it anymore. If you could message this message out (to the federal government)," said Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan at the meeting, held in a private room at the Hard Rock Café in Garapan.

Other business representatives said the U.S. State Department has also not sent any representative to the CNMI.

One businessman repeatedly expressed frustration over visiting the U.S. Labor website and dialing the 1-800 numbers, saying he could not get answers to his questions.

Another said federal agencies need to give attention to the CNMI not only because of the federalized immigration system, but also in light of plans to consider the CNMI as a relocation site for up to 4,000 U.S. troops, in addition to the over 8,000 Marines that will be moved to Guam from Okinawa, Japan.

David Sablan of Century Insurance said the federal government should not make the process complicated.

"Why don't just issue permanent residency to some 20,000 (alien workers), since we know that's the number we need. Why complicate the whole issue?" he said.

Another businessman said if the Guam Organic Act was made possible, then there's no reason the same cannot be done in the CNMI.

Martin said granting permanent residency and immigration are sensitive issues in the U.S. because of the large population of illegal immigrants.

But Kara said there's a "big difference."

"The people here are not illegal. They are legal aliens under CNMI laws," she said.

HIKE

From Page 1

when asked for comments on Cabrera's House Bill 17-6, which is similar to a bill introduced during the previous Legislature that did not pass.

H.B. 17-6 is among the seven revenue measures that the House Ways and Means Committee will tackle in today's meeting.

They also include the austerity measures bill which serves as the Fiscal Year 2010 budget measure, and a legislative initiative authorizing the CNMI to issue pension obligation bonds.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said "nothing is set in stone," and that every lawmaker has the prerogative to introduce bills.

"I have a reservation on this one. It's bad policy, and I don't like easy solution," said Basa.

Under HB 17-6, the current $50 license fee for wholesalers, for example, is being proposed to increase to $3,000, a whopping 5,900-percent jump.

Manufacturers' fees, now only $50, will be increased to $2,000, a 3,900-percent hike.

"Business license fees in the CNMI have remained unchanged for many years, while the costs associated with processing the licenses have increased. Furthermore, the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Finance in assuring compliance of businesses in adhering to business license regulations have increased," said Cabrera in introducing the bill.

He added that increasing the fees is necessary to effectively comply with business license requirements.

Retail and commercial banks' fees will be raised to $3,000 from the current $500, while the fee for offshore banking corporations will be raised to $4,000 from only $1,000 if this bill becomes law.

Other business license fees to be raised and the proposed rates include finance companies, $2,000; foreign exchange, $1,000; securities dealers, $1,000; insurance companies, $500; insurance brokers, $700; insurance agents, $400; insurance adjuster or solicitor, $200; public utilities, $600; and taxis, $250.

The bill also proposes to increase the rates of the following license fees: roadside vendors selling only local agricultural and fishery products, $100; all other roadside vendors selling imported fruits and vegetables, $300; scuba instruction and scuba diving tour operations, $500; and general business license covering all other business unless otherwise provided by this measure, $100, per separate line of business.

'No budget bill in 30 days'

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) pronouncement that there will be a Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill passed within 30 days after Jan. 11 has not materialized.

For one, the House session today has been cancelled.

One of the bills on the agenda is Basa's House Bill 17-22 which he said yesterday should serve as the budget bill. The bill seeks to cut government work hours from 80 to 72 per pay period and implements at least six unpaid holidays for the remainder of FY 2010.

Basa said the FY 2010 budget bill will use the FY 2009 level of $150 million.

"We've come to a point where it's very difficult to cut anymore," he said

He also noted Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's earlier statement that the over $16.86 million in deficit in FY 2009 was a result of the Legislature's failure to implement his proposed austerity Fridays.

"We're a different Legislature. We have the balls. We can make the tough decisions," Basa said, referring to his austerity measures bill which he hopes to pass the House and the Senate.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos also said earlier that FY 2011 will also have the same budget level of $150 million.

CPA rearranges priority projects on Tinian

RFP for harbor fender to be cancelled

MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to its tight budget for the current fiscal year, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will rearrange some of its locally funded projects to make way for more important undertakings.

Executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said one casualty is the installation of a fender at the Tinian harbor.

Deleon Guerrero sad the project, initiated by the previous CPA administration, was found unnecessary because the main port harbor is such in severe condition that the fender would be of no use.

A fender is a bumper used to keep boats from banging into docks or each other.

Saipan Tribune learned that the board last year approved the fender project with the condition that Mobil Oil will shoulder the project cost and will be offset to what it pays to the ports authority.

Deleon Guerrero said based on the study conducted by the Mobil Oil, which was reviewed by CPA, it is more practical and necessary to first address the repair and rehabilitation of the main harbor before a fender is placed on the site.

"This is a longtime plan and RFP has been approved by the board. A fender will be placed outside the port to prevent the fuel tanker from hitting the port. But with the severe condition and dangerous state of the main harbor, we feel that the priority should be to repair the dock first," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero is optimistic that the board will take positive action as the recommendation was based on the re-assessments of both CPA and Mobil.

"CPA budget is very tight… and instead of using the money for the fender project, I think it is best to use it in more priority needs such as the main harbor repair," he said, citing the overall cost of the project as "minimal."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial proclaimed a state of disaster for Tinian last October after determining that the island's deteriorating outer breakwater walls and piers pose a public danger. The declaration allowed him to reprogram funds for the repair and rehabilitation of the outer walls and piers, costing up to $3 million.

Fitial's declaration came four days after then Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas declared his own emergency in the municipality.

Tinian lawmakers disclosed that the island needed $45 million to be able to repair and rebuild the island's breakwater, which was built soon after World War II.

Deleon Guerrero, in acknowledging the importance of fenders in the harbor, said the same fender project may be re-introduced once harbor problems are fixed.

H&R BLOCK®
Tax Services
Ground Flr. Saipan Gold Beach Hotel
Beach Road, South Garapan
PO Box 503630 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726
Tax Season Business Hours
(February 15 - April 15, 2010)
8:00am to 8:00pm Monday through Friday
10:00am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday
Tijuana Mexican Restaurant
Gold Beach Hotel
H&R BLOCK
Joe's Bar & Grill VFW
To Duty Free Shop
Beach Road, South Garapan
To San Jose

Weekend Prepaid Sale
February 13, 2010 • 10:00am to 2:00pm
Payless Supermarket (Chalan Kanoa)
island Cruizer
cool deals on wheels
SAMSUNG U340
$65.00* [with $10 Cell Card]
[CDMA • Camera Phone]
SAMSUNG U350
$75.00* [with $10 Cell Card]
[CDMA • Camera Phone]
NOKIA 6010
$50.00* [with FREE Prepaid SIM & $10 Load]
[GSM Dual Band]
MOTOROLA W510
$99.00* [with FREE Prepaid SIM & $10 Load]
[GSM Quad Band]
ONE PREPAID CARD FOR GSM & CDMA
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza, Garapan) on Saturdays
New Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00am to 6:00pm • Sunday & Monday: Closed
Available in Tinian & Rota on Fridays (CDMA Phones Only)
FREE AIRTIME! when using PTI & IT&E Long Distance Prepaid Cards
*Cannot keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards will not be accepted • some conditions apply
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

Malae: Main CUC transformers now fully functional

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two large substation transformers that serve the southern part of the island are now fully functional and energized, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae.

He disclosed yesterday that repairs for Transformer 1 at Kiya substation was completed at 4pm last Wednesday.

During Monday's power outage that lasted up to five hours in many areas, Transformer 2 at Kiya substation replaced the Transformer 1 following the power disruption.

"Thus, both transformers are now energized," Malae told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Should a fault occur anew on Transformer 1, Malae said it would take about 20 minutes to switch the load to the other transformer.

To prevent the same power outage situation, he said CUC will keep the maintenance efforts for the transformers.

"We have to continue improving preventive maintenance and there is a team dedicated to the transformers now," he admitted.

Malae

A maximum of five-hour power outage hit southern part of the island Monday night after a cable leading to one of the two transformers exploded, leaving residents and commercial offices in the dark.

It was described by CUC as a serious outage because it occurred on one of the two large substation transformers at Kiya.

It was also learned that Transformer 2 had not been energized on "standby" when the power occurred Monday night.

In order to shorten the outage duration as much as possible, the Kiya feeders were connected to Feeder 3 or Feeder 4.

In January, CUC said there were at least 10 hours of outages on account of the distribution system and zero hours due to power generation.

In order to avert the same situation, CUC admitted that it need to pull a team of industrial electricians from the power plant, combine with power distribution crews, plus one engineer to inspect substations on a regular basis.

CUC earlier claimed that the present power generation on island is "fairly stable" as a result of the hard work injected by the competent management of the utility firm.

Saipan Tribune learned that at present, total power available to CUC from its three power plants is 53.2 megawatts. The peak load for the year was recorded last Sept. 8 with 42 MW and with a reserve of 11 MW.

GUAM MARIANAS TRAINING CENTER
Chalan Tun Tomas P. Sablan, Beach Rd, San Antonio, Saipan 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 235-5457
Email: russgmms@gmail.com

Association for Career and Technical Education ACTE

ATTENTION: ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS!
GMTC Now Offers Training

Start date February 22, 2010
Certified Billing & Coding Specialist

- Introduction to Health Care Insurance
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Coding
- International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Coding
- Insurance Claims Process

US CERTIFICATION
Certified Billing & Coding Specialist
Certified Electronic Health Records Specialist

Guam Marianas Training Center is the authorized National Health Career Association Review & Testing Center for Asia-Pacific

3 waitresses decide to take court action as Labor award in 2007 useless

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three waitresses have decided to file a lawsuit in the Superior Court as they failed to collect over $180,000 in damages awarded them by the Department of Labor three years ago.

Marites A. Aurelio, Ronna D. Santo Domingo, and Rosalima C. Oliva sued Bienvenida C. Camacho and her former husband Felipe SN. Camacho.

The plaintiffs, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, asked the court to hold Bienvenida Camacho and Felipe Camacho liable to pay them $122,570.80 and $60,224.80 in damages respectively.

The plaintiffs requested the court to order the defendants pay them attorney's fees for bringing enforcement action in court.

Berger stated in the complaint that his clients are all nonresident workers who had entered into employment contracts with the Camachos.

Aurelio and Oliva are still residing on Saipan, while Santo Domingo presently resides in the Philippines.

Berger said that, in May 2005 the plaintiffs, through their attorney Mark Hanson, filed a labor complaint against the Camachos.

Berger said in March 2007 then Labor Hearing Officer Barry Hirshbein issued an administrative order finding in favor of the plaintiffs.

The defendants appealed to the Labor secretary.

Berger said it took another year for a final administrative decision, which was issued separately against each defendant on May 12, 2008.

"This lawsuit is necessary because the Department of Labor does not enforce their administrative judgments, and case law therefore allows the party or parties to enter the civil court arena to file a complaint solely to seek enforcement of final administrative judgments," the lawyer said.

In their Labor complaint, the waitresses said they were coerced into performing acts of a sexual nature and were restricted to their barracks.

Hirshbein held the Camachos, the then owners of the defunct Benny's Place in Garapan, liable to pay a total of $110,000 in wages and damages to the waitresses.

Hirshbein also sanctioned Mrs. Camacho to pay a $10,000 sanction and her alter ego, Michelle Corp., another $1,000 sanction.

STOP DIABETES FOOT AND JOINT PAIN
IMPROVED SENSATION, BALANCE & CIRCULATION
PACIFIC HOME HEALTH CARE 670-234-CARE
Call us today for a free Anodyne Therapy consultation, home safety evaluation and fall risk assessment.

One For Me & One For My Honey!

Buy 1 for $159
Get the 2nd free!
i465 Clutch
Comes in red and black

Buy 1 for $129
Get the 2nd free!
i776 & i776w
Comes in chocolate & purple

Buy 1 for $179
Get the 2nd free!
i856 Debut
Comes in pearl white

It's a Sweetheart Deal only from iConnect!
Great plans as low as $20 monthly

Get two of our bestselling phones at one low price this February. Simply subscribe to two of our value postpaid plans from as low as $20/month.
Promo period February 1 - 28, 2010 or while supplies last.

Some conditions apply. New activations only. 24 month contract required.
Guam - Saipan Office 888.8888

iCONNECT
www.iconnectsaipan.com

Customers First TRIPLE J

SUPER FRESH MARKET

Customers First

SHOP FOR MORE SAVINGS & EXCELLENT SERVICE!

Feb.12 to Feb.18, 2010

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

FRESH MEAT

The tastiest, juiciest, most tender beef you'll ever have. Less than 8% of beef meets the highest standards to become the Certified Angus Beef® brand.

A wide choice of premium Tyson® poultry and superb pork products are also available.

SHOULDER STEAK
Feature
$3.29 per Lb.

T-BONE STEAK
Feature
$8.99 per Lb.

RIBEYE STEAK
Feature
$8.99 per Lb.

CHUCK ROAST
$3.29 per Lb.

GROUND BEEF
$2.29 per Lb.

FRESH PRODUCE

Expect great service and a big selection of the freshest produce.

SUPER FRESH GREEN CABBAGE
$0.89 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH CELLO CARROTS
$0.89 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH ORANGES
$1.19 per Lb.

SUPER FRESH ROMAINE LETTUCE
$1.39 per Lb.

DAIRY

Enjoy shopping for unique store items in every aisle.

BLUE BONNET
16 oz. SPREAD STICK
Feature
$1.29 each

GUAM ROSE CALROSE RICE
50 Lb. Bag
$24.99 per Pack

SUN CLASSIC DETERGENT
77 oz. Box
$3.59 per Box

WESTERN FAMILY ASSORTED SODAS
2 - Liter Bottle
Feature
$1.19 each

POST HONEY BUNCHES OF OATS
14.5 oz. Box
Feature
$5.25 per Box
Honey Roasted with Almonds

BAKE SHOP

Check out our FRESHLY SLICED DELI MEATS

Freshly baked items are prepared everyday!

HAMBURGER BUNS $2.59 per Bag

HOTDOG BUNS $1.99 per Bag

COFFEE & DONUT COMBO Only $1.25
Freshly Baked! Fresh & Hot!

We Accept Food Stamps

Special prices are good until Feb.18, 2010 while supplies last.

WIC Participants are welcome!
We offer 5% Discount for Senior Citizens (on Selected Items Only).

Credit Cards Accepted
VISA MasterCard & Wells Fargo Financial
PACIFIC EXPRESS Debit Card Service is now available in the Store.

WESTERN UNION yes! money transfer
Available inside the Store.

Opens Daily: 7am to 9pm
Sunday: 7am to 9pm.

For more info, pls. call
322-0430
Email: superfresh@triplejsaipan.com

Ex-hotel staff helps save teenager's life

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former hotel employee played hero when he revived an unconscious student in Finasisu by applying his knowledge on basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Fyke Sabino, a former bar supervisor at Century Hotel, was able to revive the 18-year-old male student shortly before an ambulance came.

Ruel C. Nava, father of the student, expressed deep gratitude to Sabino for his "heroic deed."

"If Sabino was not there and applied his knowledge on CPR and first aid maybe I've lost my son," Nava told *Saipan Tribune.*

The incident happened in the evening last Jan. 30 in one of the apartment rooms at Finasisu Terrace when the student suffered severe asthma allergy.

The girlfriend asked some friends for help. One neighbor saw Sabino, who had just got out from his car on his way home after refereeing in a basketball league.

Sabino

When Sabino came to the room he saw the student on the bed being attended by his girlfriend.

Sabino noticed that the student's tongue had retracted and his eyes were all white. The student then later lost consciousness.

Sabino applied his knowledge on first aid and CPR by clearing the victim's airway on the throat then pumping his chest several times until he regained consciousness.

Sabino and some neighbors then carried the student down from the third floor of the building to the ground floor where they waited for the ambulance.

Medics on board the ambulance transported the already conscious teenager to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was released after several hours.

Nava said the doctor informed him that his son was fortunate that he was immediately revived before taken to the hospital.

Sabino said he is happy because he was able to help in reviving the teenager using his knowledge on basic first aid and CPR that he learned through training he obtained when he was employed with Century Hotel or Tan Holdings.

" I believe that anybody who has knowledge on CPR and first aid would do the same. It was just so lucky that I went home early that night after officiating a basketball game. CPR and first aid training, which is now required for the hotel staffs, is very important in this community," the 37-year-old Sabino said.

BlackBerry® smartphone
BLOWOUT
BlackBerry® 8707 G smartphone
$49.00*
BlackBerry® Pearl™ Flip 8220 smartphone
$79.00*
BlackBerry® Curve™ 8520 smartphone
$149.00*
Includes BlackBerry® Automotive Charger and BlackBerry® HS 500 wireless Bluetooth Headset
BlackBerry® Curve™ 8900 smartphone
$229.00*
BlackBerry® Storm™ 9500 smartphone
$259.00*
BlackBerry® Bold™ 9000 smartphone
$339.00*
BlackBerry® Bold™ 9000 smartphone (White)
$369.00*
BlackBerry
BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.
*New 24 month Agreement required and BlackBerry ® data required.Offer valid Febuary 12th-Febuary 27th, 2010 or while supplies last. Conditions apply.
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 12, 1999

$1B suit scares garment buyers

Finance officials may have to further slash the government's spending package for the rest of FY 1999 after garment manufacturers warned of a 25 percent plunge in user fees they pitch in to the local coffers as a result of reduced orders from apparel buyers. The decline is expected to bring down to $36 million the total user fee collections anticipated for the current fiscal year which is $5.1 million lower than original projections. The anticipated reduction in user fee is tied to the $1 billion class lawsuit filed against US retailers and garment factories for alleged mistreatment of Asian workers in CNMI that has sent jitters to the industry.

Bill caps scholarship grants

A bill intended to spread out the dwindling government scholarship funds passed the House of Representatives yesterday in what lawmakers consider a necessary step to stop the practice of giving generous financial aid package to students attending college in the mainland. It will seek to cap the grants at $15,000 per student annually beginning this fall semester, covering tuition, books, stipend, room and board, other school fees and costs as well as transportation, up to five consecutive years. The measure, part of the short-term solution to funding shortfall in the local educational assistance program, now heads to the Senate for action.

Feb. 12, 2001

Senate delays Wiseman's confirmation

It was an upbeat atmosphere at the Senate with the session hall gallery filled with spectators—which has not been the usual case—hoping to witness history unfold late Friday morning. An announcement from Senate President Paul A. Manglona minutes after the session was officially called to order transformed the upbeat mood into waves of frustrations and disappointments, as it rendered the gallery literally empty. The Senate has decided to delay the confirmation of lawyer David S. Wiseman's nomination as Superior Court associate judge, pending the conduct of a public hearing by the he powerful Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations.

Government expenditures climb 9%

Following an increase in the amount of taxes and fees collected by the CNMI government in the third quarter of the financial year 2000, its expenditures for same period rose by nine percent to $57 million from the previous quarter's $52.3 million. A report from the Department of Commerce which quotes official figures from the finance department disclosed overall amount of taxes and fees collected in the same period climbed by near-nine percent to $55.53 million from $51 million in the second quarter of FY2000. However, the government's spending level under the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is still relatively lower than the average quarterly cost incurred by the previous regime which amounted to about $67 million in 1997.

Feb. 12, 2002

New tax breaks luring new investors to NMI

The Commonwealth Development Authority is studying the application of six multi-million companies seeking to avail tax breaks under the Commonwealth's Qualifying Certificate Program. CDA Executive Director MaryLou S. Ada said that, aside from the six investors, a good number of businesses have also inquired about the newly implemented investment incentive program. In an interview, Ada disclosed that some of the investment plans received by the CDA involve hotel and resort operations, golf course and resort development, high-rise condominiums, and other tourism-related projects.

WMU delegation visits CNMI

A six-member delegation from the Western Michigan University arrived on Saipan to conduct this week needs assessment sessions envisioned to improve a broad range of CNMI programs and services, especially in the areas of health, human resources and education. Former CNMI resident Mozhdeh Bruss, now an assistant professor at the WMU, spearheaded efforts to bring the delegation to the CNMI, in the hopes of assisting the Northern Marianas achieve further growth in the provision of essential community services. Bruss, during the introduction of WMU delegates at the Northern Marianas College yesterday, expressed optimism that the visit would pave the road for continued collaboration between the WMU and the CNMI.

Valentine's in full bloom at Palms Resort

WHAT'S COOKING?

Palms Resort Saipan will be pulling out all the stops in its celebration of Valentine's Day this Sunday with a special brunch buffet at Minami Restaurant.

F&B manager Cristina Lustre said executive sous chef Habib Akbar will be preparing a veritable all-star menu of his creations on Feb. 14.

Akbar said Valentine's Day diners at The Palms can expect prime rib, roast pig (lechon), baked codfish (gindara), Peking duck, beef wellington, gratin, parmegiano aubergine, seafood

Palms Resort Saipan executive sous chef Habib Akbar and F&B manager Cristina Lustre pose at the entrance of Minami Restaurant, which will host a Sunday lunch buffet on Valentines Day.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Palms Resort's Valentine's Day Special Brunch Buffet is from 11am to 2pm. It costs $38 with 20 percent discount applicable to local diners.

ice, and baklava to be on the buffet table come Sunday.

In addition, the longtime chef said Minami Restaurant will also have the always popular Indian, tempura, and sushi stations at its guests' beck and call.

Japanese favorites—sukiyaki and nabe—will also be offered to guests who just can't get enough of the oriental delights.

All the mouth-watering dishes will be washed down by bottomless iced tea, choice of soda, beer, sparkling wine, and champagne.

"I'm pretty excited with this weekend's Valentine's Day Special Sunday Brunch. It will be my first time to prepare for this event at The Palms and I want it to be a memorable experience for our guests. We want them to enjoy great food and have a great time," said Akbar.

Lustre hopes the Valentine's Day motif—complete with formal table sets and heart-shaped decor aplenty—will help diners enjoy the special occasion.

"It's just our simple way of thanking our customers for patronizing us this past couple of years as well as choosing to dine with us this Valentine's Day," she said.

The Valentine's Day Special Brunch Buffet is from 11am to 2pm. It costs $38 with 20 percent discount applicable to local diners. Discounts for San Roque Club members also apply.

For more information or reservation, call 322-3311. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Diners at Palms Resort's Valentines lunch buffet will enjoy free-flow sparkling wine, while female guests will be given chocolates.

TRUONG'S Restaurant

Bring this coupon for a FREE Half Order of Fried Lumpia with purchase of two entrees.

Free Wireless Internet Available

Take-Out Available 235-8050

A Real Taste of Asia
Open Daily: 11am to 10pm
Tel: 235-8050 Beach Rd. • Susupe
*This coupon is required.
Offer expires 02/28/2010

Grand Hotel · Truong's Restaurant · World Resort · Beach Road, Susupe · Ebisuya

Celebrate Valentine's Day and Year of the Tiger at The Palms

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

Join us for a day of romance and champagne and all things lovely and divine…at our Valentine's Day Special Sunday Brunch. Enjoy an array of International delicacies specially prepared for you.

Minami Restaurant
$38.00 Adult • $19.00 Child
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
20% Local Discount
San Roque Club welcome

A surprise Valentine's gift awaits you…

Bring the whole family and enjoy our Chinese Dinner Buffet specially prepared for the celebration.
Dinner buffet is inclusive of wine, beer and sodas.

Minami Restaurant
$38.00 Adult • $19.00 Child
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
20% Local Discount
San Roque Club welcome

The Palms on PauPau Beach

For more information or reservation, please call 322-2311.

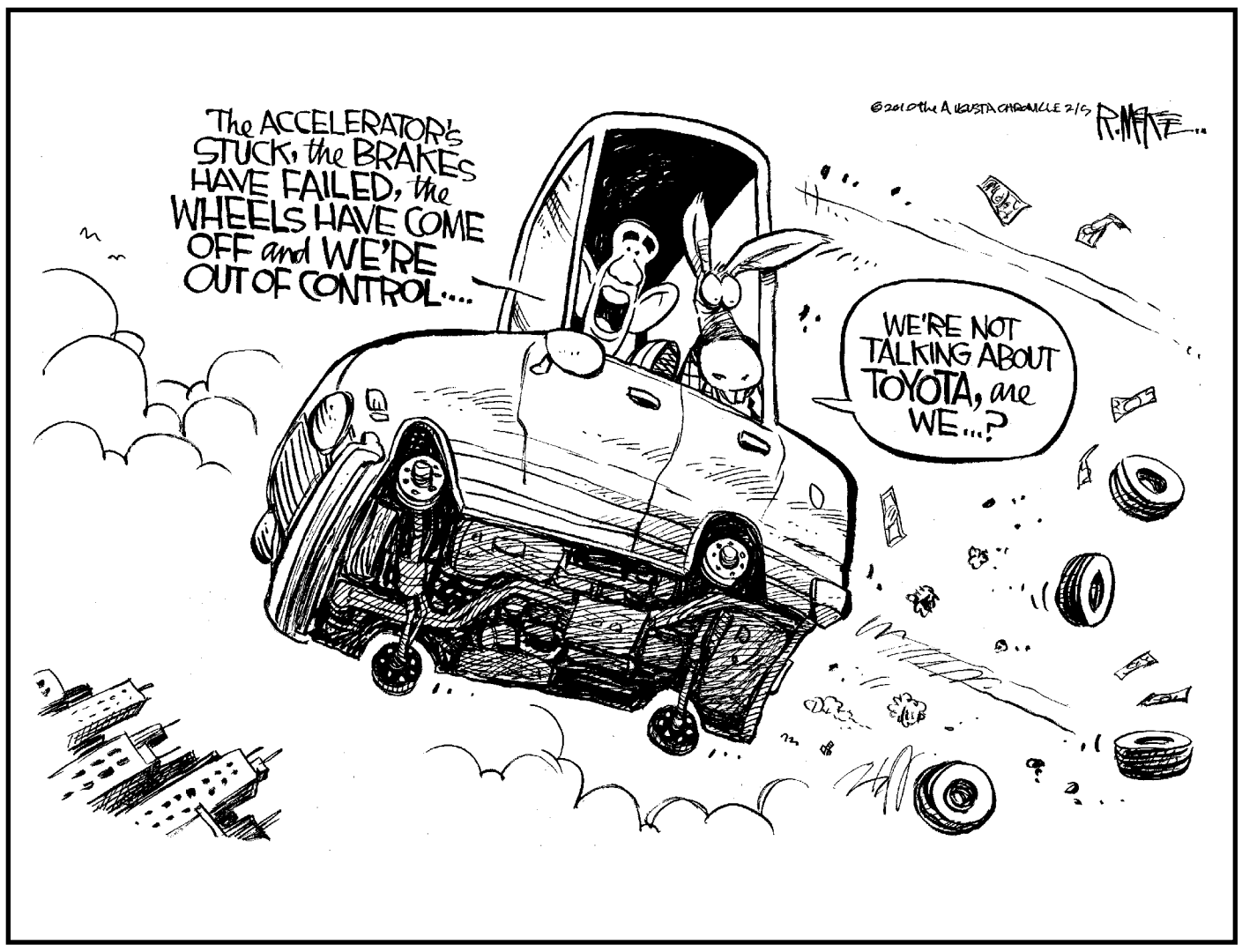
Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 36

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


The ACCELERATOR'S STUCK, the BRAKES HAVE FAILED, the WHEELS HAVE COME OFF and WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL...
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT TOYOTA, are WE...?
©2010 the ATLANTA CHRONICLE 2/5
R.MAYE

EDITORIAL

In the Senate, still a climate for change

Climate change legislation, according to conventional wisdom, is all but dead for the year. It fell victim to Senate gridlock, yawning gaps between lawmakers over how and even whether to tackle the issue and President Barack Obama's decision last year to place it third on his list of priorities, after the stimulus and health care. The president himself seemed to admit at least temporary defeat last week; at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, Obama cited speculations that the Senate might pass only a modest energy bill. Such a bill inevitably would contain expensive subsidies and research programs, but it would not place a price on carbon.

Putting a price on the burning of oil, gas and coal is the most efficient way to limit American greenhouse emissions, but Obama — though he supports the idea — didn't even mention carbon pricing when he discussed energy with reporters on Tuesday.

A version of such a scaled-down energy bill passed the Senate Energy Committee last year, and it contains some worthwhile provisions, such as updating building codes and the electricity grid. It is also incomplete, lacking both much in the way of revenue to pay for its programs and any economy-wide emissions limit. The House-passed Waxman-Markey climate bill, by contrast, contains a cap-and-trade provision aiming to provide for both, but that bill is marred by giving away far too many valuable pollution permits to politically favored groups, a scheme of which many senators are rightly skeptical.

Is there no alternative between simple do-nothingism and House complexity? In fact, there is. An alternative proposal increasingly capturing interest on Capitol Hill is the CLEAR Act, sponsored by Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and Susan Collins, R-Maine. The bill would cap the amount of carbon the United States produces and sell pollution permits to those who produce or import dirty fuels. Suppliers would pass these costs to customers, which would discourage carbon-guzzling. It would also raise costs, of course, but the government would rebate 75 percent of the revenue from the permit auctions back to the populace.

Cantwell and Collins estimate that 80 percent of Americans would break even or come out ahead, even as consumption patterns shifted toward greener goods and greater energy efficiency. Congress would use the rest of the money to pay for some of the things in that energy bill, things that merely raising the price of carbon might not accomplish — investing in transmission infrastructure, for example, or basic research and development. There is a risk that lawmakers will waste some of this cash, but it's a defensible one.

See CLIMATE on Next Page

THOUGHTS ON DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES

Starting the long road back to economic recovery

Last in a five-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Throughout this series the use of foreign investment to stimulate economic growth has been mentioned several times.

When dealing with potential investors who are strangers, whether it's the NMI government or a private citizen, it's best to check out the party or firm concerned. A lot of unsuspecting people have been victimized and damaged financially by failing to investigate a potential partner. And lets face it—it works both ways. However, there's a way where such disappointment can often be avoided.

Once word gets out that an area or individual is interested in generating investment in a particular project either on the basis of 100 percent ownership or a joint venture with local participation this information will attract all sorts of inquiries—some legitimate—some not—and at first it's not always easy to tell the difference.

It's a good policy to be polite and interested during an initial contact—but be skeptical until proven otherwise. Keep in mind that a serious investor will feel the same unless they are dealing with the government which many prefer to do.

Once the campaign to generate investment inquiries gets under way a variety of responses can be anticipated of which many will be from people who have ideas but little money to carry them out. This group must be weeded out and ignored. Other inquiries will be more serious and it is this group which should be encouraged to visit the area for the purpose of meeting with government officials and private businessmen interested in joint ventures.

When, and if, sufficient interest has been generated on the part of the foreign investor and he or she is convinced the area offers a profitable venture (if not convinced they will disappear—and no more will be heard by them)—at some point prior to receiving final acceptance by the potential local participant the financial and character references of the foreign participant should be thoroughly checked. This can sometimes be done by requesting a Dun and Bradstreet report, particularly for off-island U.S. citizens, or as an alternative request that the potential investor sign a letter to his bank permitting the bank to release otherwise confidential financial information to the appropriate government official with assurance provided that the information will be kept in strict confidence. It's not a bad policy that no permit to do business should be granted unless information is received indicating financial capacity. The NMI has a pretty good track record in this respect.

A measure of financial information can be obtained by requesting a Dun and Bradstreet (D & B) company profile which is available for a nominal fee as are their "scam reports." Local banks can often assist with making contact with "D & B" as can the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior which is in an excellent position to assist.

D & B retains credit and business "profiles" on companies that either volunteer their information to the firm or they obtain it through credit reports. Remember that the information you request from D & B is often information which the company or individual themselves probably provided. It's often not too different than that of asking my dear sweet grandmother for a character report on me—if you get my point. But check it out for yourself at www.dnb.com/us/ (or any region selected from the "pull down menu").

Legitimate businessmen or firms should not object to this request for information as they will understand the reason behind the requirement. It will be found, however, that some who claim to be interested in investing will object to providing such information. Caution should be exercised with such people. The reason for this action being that once an area starts to make known its interest in generating foreign investment, a certain number of carpetbaggers, "big shot", self promoting con-men will appear and they must be identified early and ignored. You can imagine the result when the promotional agency, operating under the good offices of the government and acting as a catalytic agent, engineers a joint venture investment relationship between a local investor and a foreign participant without the benefit of a thorough financial and character investigation only to learn too late that the foreign participant had no funds to invest in the project. The agencies reputation will be irreparably damaged within the community and the local participant may lose the capital he may have advanced. This very situation happened to a prominent member of the Congress of the Federated States some

See STARTING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Make mine a double (double-wide, that is)

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

In these lean times, when the CNMI needs more practical thinking and fewer fuzzy delusions, I've got just the thing for the utilitarian, hands-on crowd. It's a book entitled *Intermodal Shipping Container Small Steel Buildings*.

If you have worked for a living in Saipan, you've encountered shipping containers as offices, storage spaces, car ports, and even houses. I worked for a company in Saipan that used insulated and air-conditioned container to store expensive machinery parts, which safeguarded the parts against the ravages of humidity and corrosion. I know at least five people on Saipan who live in shipping containers, in sort of an indoor/outdoor tropical lifestyle (mortgage cost: zero). And I knew a guy in Guam who had a pretty good house from joining two shipping containers together, thus making the coveted double-wide, sure to make him the envy of his neighbors.

In fact, before I even saw Saipan, when I was a number-cruncher for a wind energy company, we used shipping containers in the field as storage sheds: They were cheap, sturdy, and easy to lock. At the time my pals and I wanted to get one to convert it into a hunting cabin, but the thought of hammering and sawing and drilling and welding away at something that we didn't really understand, structurally, kept our feet cold. Kept our butts cold, too, for that matter, because we never got a cabin, we'd sleep in our trucks.

So my chief complaint with *Intermodal Shipping Container Small Steel Buildings* is that it didn't come along 20 years ago. In fact, the second edition came off the presses a matter of weeks ago. This small, 113-page book was authored by Paul Sawyers, and is available at Amazon for $19.98. I'll post related links at SaipanBlog.com.

Sawyers has converted containers into work shops and sold them as such, so he's got a professional's touch here. But he doesn't resort to construction jargon, he uses plain talk so normal folk like me can understand him.

The book opens with basic container information: common sizes, dimensions, weights, and so on. Hey, just so you know: The most common size, the standard 40-foot model, is 8 feet wide externally, about 7.5 feet wide internally, 8.5 feet high externally, and 7 feet, 10-in. high internally (I'm rounding off here); the empty weight is listed at 8,070 pounds.

There's an overview of what to look for during a pre-buy inspection, which is useful, since I'd otherwise have no idea what to look for.

Sawyers also provides diagrams of the actual structural (sort of like a skeleton) composition of containers, so you can see what is lurking behind the skin. He discusses how the corners are made and their dimensions, the camber of the roof, the make up of the flooring, and related stuff.

The book mentions the various types of steel that you'd want to use if your project entails welding. It also discusses how to attach two containers side-by-side. Since the corners jut out, the containers won't butt against each other flush, so I'm sure a lot of people out there could have saved a lot of grief if they had Sawyer's wisdom at hand, since he walks you through the process one step at a time.

The book also goes into good detail about how to make footings for a container structure. Particularly in Saipan's climate, getting the container off of the ground can reduce corrosion issues, not to mention flooding risks. Various options are discussed by Sawyers. Sawyers includes diagrams and instructions for pouring your own concrete footings; he even helps the reader calculate how many bags of premix concrete will be needed.

There's a little information about insulation, and some on roofing, too.

Since a container won't do you any good sitting at the dock, the book also describes the elements of getting one delivered. This endeavor may, as Sawyer covers, entail having the beast hoisted atop any footings.

The book concludes with some artist-concept sort of stuff for making multi-container homes, but this stuff absorbs just a few pages and is a digression from the practical, hands-on approach that makes the book so compelling. So if you've got lofty ambitions for making a mansion of an array of shipping containers, I'll note that things like plumbing, space planning, or electrical stuff are beyond the scope of this work, which is, instead, focused on the basic steps towards making a sound, weather-tight structure. That's why I find it interesting: it's hands-on stuff, not somebody's foggy notions of visionary concepts.

Some of you may be familiar with Ross Norgrove's classic book *Blueprint for Paradise*. Sawyers' work, though not focused on the tropics, or even on dwellings, merits space on my shelf next to Norgrove because of Sawyers' practical treatment of his topic.

Advanced cataract surgery

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the Director of the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care at Marianas Eye Institute. He is listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists."He is the editor of TheRetinaBlog.com, an online journal used by eye specialists around the world to stay current with the latest advances. He may be reached at 670-235-9090 or through www.MarianasEye.com.

If you live long enough, you're going to develop cataracts. It's just a fact of life. We all have a natural lens inside our eye that helps focus light. As time passes, this clear lens becomes cloudy and the light cannot pass through it. I tell my patients that it's like the window in the house getting cloudy—you just can't see out as well. When the natural lens inside the eye gets cloudy we call it a cataract.

Although cataracts are generally a problem of old age, in some people, cataracts can develop at a young age. Many of my patients with diabetes develop cataracts in their early 40s. Ultraviolet light can cause cataracts to occur at an early age also. This is especially true in people with fair skin and blue eyes. A previous eye injury can be another cause of early cataracts. But in most cases cataracts occur as part of the aging process. As we get older the lens gets more and more cloudy, causing blurred vision.

Many times when I tell patients that they have cataracts they want to know what their options are. Medications were eye drops do not cure cataracts. Eyeglasses do not cure cataracts. But there is an excellent treatment for cataracts: cataract surgery. Most of the time when I say the word "surgery" and I'm talking about the eyes, people get scared people. That's normal. I know that someday I'll need cataract surgery, and I know that when that day comes I'll be a little bit scared too.

Cataract surgery is a very intricate, delicate, surgical procedure is performed through a microscope. During the surgery we take the cloudy lens out and replace it with a new clear artificial lens. Even though it is a complex procedure, I tell my patients that for you the surgery is easy. You come in the morning; you have the surgery; and you go home the same day. The surgery itself takes about 15 minutes. We use medicine to make your eye numb, so there's no pain, and we give you some medicine through a vein to help you relax, so you're not scared during the surgery. Most people take a little nap during the surgery. After the surgery you wear a cover over the eye for one day, and for a few weeks after surgery you use eye drops. Most people are back to work and their regular activities the day after the surgery. In most cases the incision is so small that it doesn't even need a single stitch.

But it wasn't always this way. In the early days of cataract surgery, we did not have operating microscopes to provide magnification. We did not have microsurgical instruments. For these reasons the surgery required a huge incision by today's standards. And because there were no sutures small enough to close this incision, patients would have to lie in bed for several weeks with sandbags on each side of their head so they couldn't move. This allowed the incision to heal. As microsurgical techniques developed and artificial lenses were, we could make the incisions smaller, close it with very fine sutures, and decrease the recovery time.

During the past 15 years or so further advances now allow us to perform cataract surgery through an incision that's about 2 mm in size. That's smaller than most of the words on this page. And it's this tiny incision that allows the rapid healing.

If you have blurred vision, it could be from a cataract. The modern techniques of advanced cataract surgery make this an easy procedure for you, both in terms of your time in the operating room, and the rapid recovery. I can introduce you to hundreds of people that I've operated on, who were scared before the surgery on their first eye, but once it was done, they were eager to get the second eye done. Cataract surgery is one of those miracles of modern medicine.

STARTING

From Page 10

years ago. Although the government's promotional agency was not involved, the Micronesian's investor lost a $75,000 investment on a non existent aircraft which was supposed to operate within the state. The money was never recovered.

There have been many similar examples of financial losses to islanders as a result of misplaced trust based on inadequate financial and character review of presumed investors. The above is not cited to discourage the overall effort to attempt to generate foreign investment, but rather to illustrate that some degree of caution should be exercised when dealing with people or firms who are generally unknown. It is not always necessary to conduct such an investigation when dealing with known, recognized reputable firms and individuals. However, it is always wise to seek the services of an attorney.

A potential investor from the United States contacted me to inquire about the possibility of manufacturing fishing rods in the Commonwealth. Frankly, I would have never thought that anyone would be interested in manufacturing such a product in the CNMI. After briefing him on the incentives, I asked, why he became interested in a Commonwealth location. He replied, "I'm looking for low labor costs and the use of the 'Made in the U S A' label—which many of our European buyers insist upon."

We all know that labor costs are not as low as previously the case. But that's not the point I wish to make. As I was not associated with the island at the time—this potential investor wanted to lease a large building for his manufacturing and assembly area and I was unable to advise him as to where he might locate such facilities. It's one more of many details that would assist potential investors, namely, an inventory of available buildings, office space and raw land for lease—all ready for review and inspection. An inventory of the above when made available to prospective investors would be another helpful investment promotion tool.

In concluding this series I hope something I have mentioned will in some way be helpful. I spent many wonderful years of my life in the Northern Marianas—and have many friends on Saipan. The islands are in my mind and spirit every day and in the words of a popular song—"I would rather see you up than see you down."

The islands have a lot of potential for growth—it starts with cooperation. Cooperation with the United States Government; cooperation between the NMI's executive and legislative branches; cooperation between the regulatory agencies and the business community both domestic and foreign. The latter's task ahead is difficult enough without having to cope with an uncooperative, burdensome bureaucracy.

Editor's Note: *With more than four decades of international experience as an economist and foreign investment advisor for development banks and finance institutions in North Africa, the Bahamas, Thailand's Board of Investment and the Inter-American Development Bank—the author offers a perspective and point of view for those who want to encourage foreign investment.*

CLIMATE

From Page 10

Meanwhile, The Post's Juliet Eilperin reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, might propose a simple tax on carbon, with all proceeds returned to taxpayers, perhaps via a cut in payroll taxes. Though it might be tougher to pass, such an approach is also very appealing for similar reasons. At the same time, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is trying with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., to assemble a bipartisan bill, has been discussing the Cantwell-Collins proposal with his colleagues, reportedly to some favorable reaction. In other words, there is a chance that the failure of the House's bill in the Senate and the search for a Plan B will yet produce better legislation.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

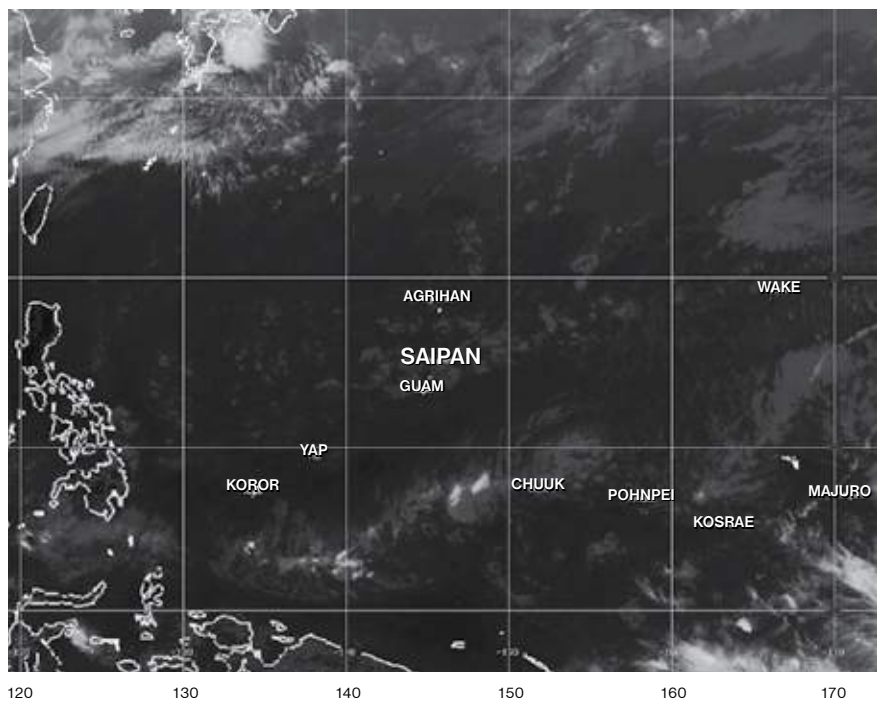
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼75
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲75	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲33	▼22
Hong Kong	Rain	▲69	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼67
London	Flurries	▲41	▼34
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲68	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲91	▼74
Melbourne	Dreary	▲72	▼56
Miami	Cloudy	▲75	▼62
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲31	▼21
Osaka	Dreary	▲43	▼34
Paris	Cold	▲28	▼24
Pusan	Rain/Snow	▲42	▼32
Rome	Cloudy	▲40	▼28
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼39
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲57	▼48
Seoul	Flurries	▲37	▼16
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲42	▼29
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼20

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Stratocumulus clouds cover the area north of Wake Island between 19N and 25N from 161E to 176E. A shear line extends from 13N180 to 12N169E to 7N163E to 7N150E to 2N140E to 3N130E. Widespread clouds and scattered light showers are found along and up to 180 miles north of the shear line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:13 AM	4:50 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	5:39 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	7:05 AM	7:12 PM
Tuesday	7:39 AM	7:59 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Gong xi fa cái! Hóng bao ná lái!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The above roughly translates: "Congratulations and be prosperous, now give me a red envelope!" The first phrase is the familiar New Year's Day greetings, which on the 14th will be the first day of the Year of the Tiger, is not about a newness in the calendar cycle, but about a turn into prosperity and abundance, preferably, commercial. The second phrase is the added caveat from children who normally receive red envelopes with cash the day following New Year's Eve. More recently, children have become bold enough to demand that one need not bother with cents and dollar bills. They will only take "soft currencies—ten and above, or, preferably, the red Mao One hundred ¥uan!

A colleague encouraged me to stick to travelogue accounts on this extended trip to China having boarded the inaugural direct flight between Beijing and Saipan on its return, and she added a cautionary note to forego any further political comments either of the CNMI scene or that of my host's, uncertain on how either side would respond. Ever the obedient and compliant one, I shall give it a try! (Yuk! Yuk! Yuk!)

Shenyang City in *Dong Bei* China is catching up as one of the ten premier cities of the mainland, and the prominent one in the old Manchurian plains consisting of the Provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, and the eastern half of the Autonomous Region of Neimongol (Inner Mongolia), between the Khingan Mountains and the Changbai Shan.

Bounded by Outer Mongolia, Russia, and the Korean Peninsula, Manchuria is known as a heavy industry center and boasts a developed network of rails. Ruled by the Mongols against whom the Hans built their Great

See GONG on Next Page

Kevin's Department Store
Flowers and Gift Shop
FRESH FLOWERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!
OFFERING YOU...
15%-50% DISCOUNT
ALL STORE ITEMS ON SALE STARTING...
FLORAL ARRANGEMENT
Floral arrangement characterized by flowers in bold and contrast colors and design. Fresh and Silk designer flowers are available.
PARTY SET-UP
To create a festive atmosphere for social gatherings. Ideal for Birthdays, christening, weddings and other occasions.
GIFT BASKETS
We create & deliver gift basket for all occasions.
A gift of Love... from me to you, to say you are special to me....
"Happy Valentine's Day!"
(All arranged beautifully in a glass vase or elegant wrapper accented with Baby's Breath, Greens, card and ribbon.)
Plan A: Touch of Elegant Dozen Roses
Plan B: Love of Half Dozen
Plan C: Simply "I Love You" Three Fresh Roses
Plan D: Single Wrapped Rose
Plan E: Gift Baskets Chocolates with a Stuff toy. Fruit basket or create your own personal selection.
WE ACCEPT DELIVERY OF ORDERS!!!
Come visit our store to see more of our items on display and sample!
Located beside Post Office in Chalan Kanoa or Call us now at 234-8866 or 287-8866
Long Feng Store (Tinian) - 433-3735 • Rota Flower Shop (Rota) - 532-2539

The Grand Month Of Love
Celebrate Valentine's Day & Let us be a part of your special memories.....
The Last Weekend Party of Tenderloin District @
CLUB
February 12 & 13, 2010
Be the Couple & Be the Lady of the Night
& Be serenaded by the Band
Lots of prizes to WIN!!!
Drink Specials all night long
with
TENDERLOIN DISTRICT
DJ "Big Ken" Camacho
on the wheels of Steel
Valentine's Day Special
Sunday Brunch $22
AOI RESTAURANT
Dinner Buffet $15.00
BE ENTERTAINED BY THE BAND WITH A SELECTION OF THE GREATEST LOVE SONGS
FREE PLAY @ Whimsy Arcade
VIP & local discount accepted
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WHIMSY
HAVE A PROSPEROUS & PEACEFUL CHINESE NEW YEAR!!!
WATCH the Lion Dance @ the Hotel Lobby / 10:30am / February 14, 2010
Miller Lite
MAGAS
docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
salon
TRENCH TECH
For reservation
please call 235-6616, 234-6601
ext.301/302
Another exciting offer from the grand!
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

NOBENAN SANTA LOURDES GIYA AS TEO

The people of As Teo are happy to announce the annual novena in honor of OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The novena will start on Friday, February 05, 2010 and end on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at the Santa Lourdes Shrine. For the first eight days, the novena will be said at 5:00pm. On the ninth day, (Saturday, the day of the fiesta) the novena will be said at 3:00pm, followed by Mass and procession. Dinner will be served at the residence of the late †Tan Maria and †Benbal Borja, and at the residence of the late †Rosa and Eugenio A.Borja. Everyone is invited.

Thank you very much.

GONG

From Page 13

Wall, Manchuria was later overtaken by the Mings in the second half of the 1300s, until several Tungus tribes united to form the Manchus, which overthrew the Mings in the mid-1600s. Under the Manchu Dynasty, Manchuria was closed to the more mainstream Zhou, Qin, Han and Wei Chinese settlers.

In the late 1800s, Russia became the dominant power in the Manchurian plains and began building a rail connection to Moscow. The rapid industrialization of the region ensued. After the Russo-Japanese war at the turn of the century, Japan came to prominence, and with the collapse of the Manchu Dynasty in 1912, the plains opened up to general Chinese settlement. Japan moved into the region in 1931, installed the last Manchu Emperor called the region *Manshūkoku (Manchukuo),* relinquishing it to the Russians after WWII before Nationalist Kiang's *Guómíndǎng* took over. It was the first region to fall to Communist Mao's *Gòngchǎndǎng* when it formed the Peoples Republic of China in 1949.

Half of the workers in the NMI for the garment factories and its ancillary industries trace their origin from this region. Two of the workers on the flight to Beijing, one a *hu shi* (nurse) and the other, of the house of Horus, are from Shenyang. In my eleven years of dealing with workers in Saipan, I have met workers from Dalian in the south to Heihe on the border with Russia by the Amur river, from Tumen of the Yanbian in Jilin to Jinzhou of Liaoning, from Hailar of Neimongol to Dandong across the Yalu into North Korea. Many on island, local and expats, have pleasurably mixed fluids with folks from this region, with a few bearing offsprings, and yet, they remain foreign and strangers, subject to continuing exploitation, abuse and ridicule.

There were 14 folks on the return flight to Beijing in a 340-seat plane. We need not point the obvious. To make the regularity of flights viable, it will have to generate a two-way traffic. We will have to generate interest for some from tropical Marianas to the offerings of temperate-arctic zones of North China.

After the distracting discomforts of *cervical spondylosis*, a not too distant cousin to Uncle Ben's *spinal stenosis,* I resigned from teaching at PSS but instead of succumbing to the surgical scalpel, I went for pain management through physical therapy and anti-inflammatories. I have now managed to minimize the pain without lifting a cartilage, and on occasion, luxuriate in the alternative physical therapies I have come to discover. This time, it was the *yin-yang* of the heat and the cold!

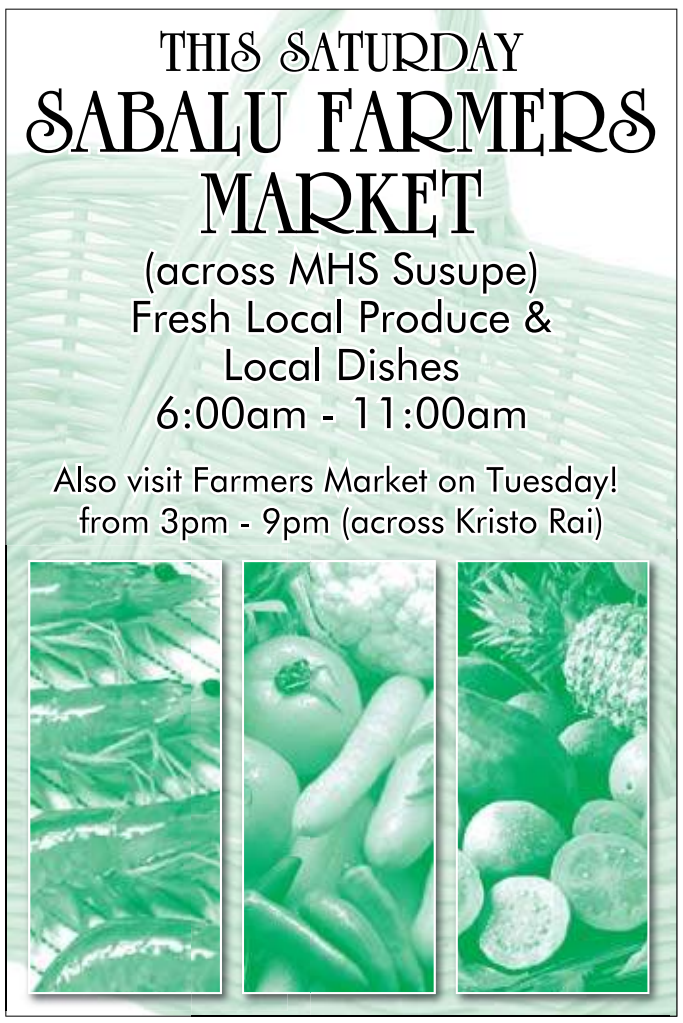
Liaoyang south of Shenyang in Liaoning Province, particularly in the Dongchangling area is a region that Uncle Ben might include in his collection of vacation maps. It is a region of hot springs, herbal waters, therapeutic muscle kneading and bone alignment. Dipping one's body into the steaming waters while inhaling the incense-whiffed below zero air temperature is one hell of a relaxing experience. Uncle Ben will have to get one of his former TH colleagues to spirit him into *Wanggong Wenquanshuicheng* (that's the name of one place, honest!) for the resort is exclusively for the local clientele.

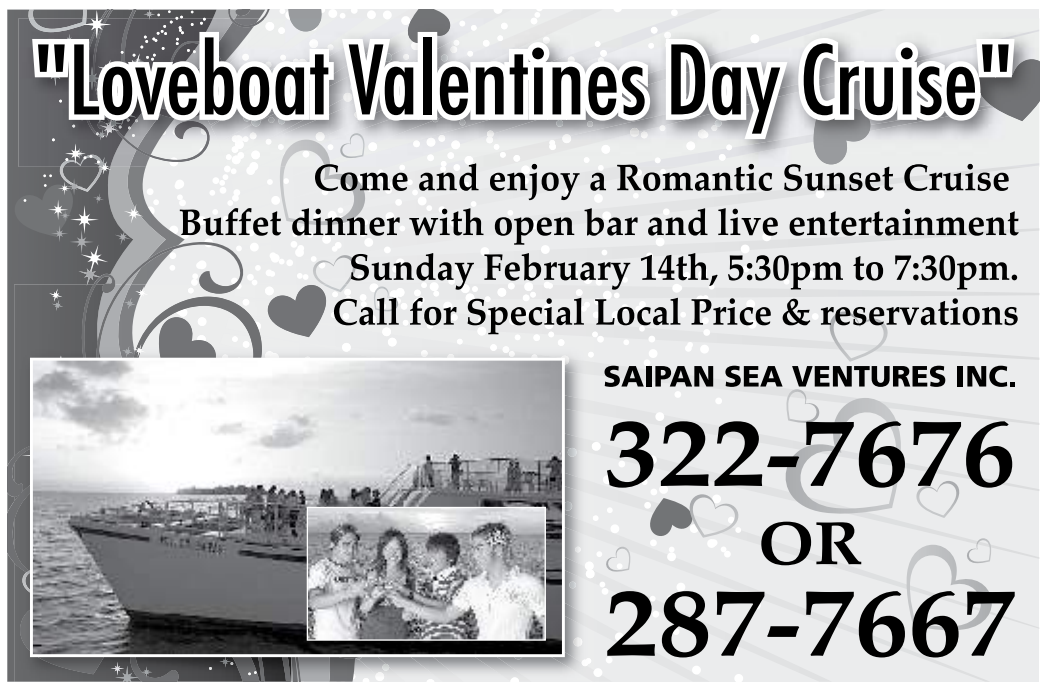
It appears that a special permit has to be applied for to cater to foreigners. I was told not open my mouth, and since I look like a tanned rural farmer from southern China, I blended easily into the woodwork, or in this case, into the stonework with wafting *Gu Zheng* music over the steam, surrounded by plastic cherry blossoms that dot the land and lawnscape, dusted with the snow that fell the night before!

It was party time when my host took his family and I to the spa. I kept my mouth shut so I was unobtrusive to the essentially middle class gathering who came to spend their hard-earned *Kuai* on food, *bai jiu* (sorghum liquor at 50% vol.), *pei jiu* (beer at 11.5% vol.), and relaxation, without being overcharged the way we treat tourists in the NMI.

Anyway, we started this reflection with the New Year's salutations that will soon be heard around here today. I am headed towards Tumen and Hunchun in the Yanbian region by the North Korean border, choosing a time when families will be gathered around their dining tables and later, lighting up their firecrackers to keep the dragon at bay. I do not expect much company on the train!

Right now, Shenyang is awash with red – the lanterns, the banners, the attires and the exploding firecrackers. The dragon will be dancing wildly tonight. New Year begins the 15-day festival of Spring. And yes, let us keep the red envelopes coming! And may they keep coming the rest of the year in Saipan!




"Loveboat Valentines Day Cruise"
Come and enjoy a Romantic Sunset Cruise
Buffet dinner with open bar and live entertainment
Sunday February 14th, 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
Call for Special Local Price & reservations
SAIPAN SEA VENTURES INC.
322-7676
OR
287-7667

J's Restaurant
Valentine's Special
Set A
Rib-eye Steak with Gravy
Baked Potato with Sour Creme
Steamed Broccoli
Tomato Soup
$15.25
Set B
Fillet Mignon
Grilled Shrimp (2 pcs)
Baked Potato
Steamed Broccoli
Tomato Soup
$17.25
J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY
DBA's: Saipan Bowling Center • Commercial Building & House Rental
Consulting Services & Rental Estates
J's Restaurant I-San Jose • J's Restaurant II-Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 29, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. 235-8641 • Fax 235-9033
"Say it with Flowers"
For Fresh Flowers, Silk Arrangement and Gift Basket Arrangement
Please visit Blossoms Floral Depot or call 235-7372/235-2276

new wave dental
Guarantee Lowest Prices On Island!
• PROMO •
FREE Tickets!!!
HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
For all patients with dental insurance!
STAY WELL insurance
TakeCare
HDS Hawaii Dental Service
(Some other insurance also qualify.)
Come have your next check-up and cleaning with us and get a FREE Movie Pass...Wow!!
OPEN AFTER WORK AND SCHOOL AND SATURDAYS TOO!
233-3300 • MIDDLE ROAD, GARAPAN

NMC: Grazing and livestock management workshop a success

Several local ranchers and farmers turned out to attend a recent three-day workshop at the Northern Marianas College that concentrated on effective pasture management.

The workshop was part of the Marianas Grazing and Livestock Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (CREES) and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam.

The first two days of the workshop consisted of presentations focused on effective soil management practices and its relation to beef quality. The third day of the event featured a pasture walk at Captain Ernest Torres's ranch, where participants engaged in hands-on exercises involving the evaluation of various types of forage that grow in the CNMI.

"We cover a very large number of topics, starting from soils and how they relate to plant production, grazing management, livestock health, and beef quality," said project leader Dr. Mark Thorne of the University of Hawaii.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos also paid a courtesy visit to participants during their pasture walk. Many participants took this opportunity to share their concerns regarding Saipan's lack of a slaughterhouse with Lt. Gov. Inos, who sat with Dr. Thorne to discuss the details of acquiring a slaughterhouse for the CNMI.

The academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel, and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

"There was some new information that really helped us, especially understanding what is in the soil and how to analyze it," said local rancher Jack Guerrero.

Other workshops from the Marianas Grazing and Livestock Management Academy will be held later this year. For more information on the academy's past and upcoming workshops, interested individuals may contact Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-2576.

The Marianas Grazing and Livestock Management Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NIFA Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR). ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon set today, vendors wanted

Puengin Inetnon or the Kagman Friday Night Market will be held today, Feb. 12, 4:30pm-10-pm at the Kagman Community Center parking lot.

This week's vendors are Lynn's Barbeque, Fong's, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, and The Library Bookmobile. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event and thus alcohol is strictly prohibited.

In related news, Kagman Friday Night Market is looking for interested local farmers and fishermen to sell produce and fish. No fees will be charged for local farmers and fishermen who wish to sell on their first night.

For more information, contact 256-7678 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

元通金行
YTT GOLDキン
Valentine's Day
SPECIAL SALE
20%-50% OFF
Selected Items Only
We have
14k, 18k, 24k
WEDDING RING SET PROMO
• Gems Stone
• Pearl
• Jade
• Necklace/Pendant
• Bracelets
• Earrings
• Bangles
• Wedding Bands
European & Japanese Design
(Over 300 kinds of style/selection)
Cash Money Lucky Draw
'Visit our store today, you might be a winner'
YTT Gold holds Diamond & Diamond Grading Certificate
Friendly and trained staff
Good reputation • Since 1989
GARAPAN, BEACH ROAD
HARD ROCK CAFE | DFS GALERIA | CAR PARK | STAR SANDS PLAZA
D'ELEGANCE CAFE | CAR PARK | YTT GOLD | PANDA STORE
Tel. No.: 233-2368 • Business Hours: 1pm - 9pm

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
Kung Hei Fat Choi!
SPECTRUM:
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $16.50/GAL | $54.99/4.25 GAL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $12.50/GAL | $46.99/4.25 GAL
WATERBASE PRIMER $17.04/GAL | $76.99/4.25 GAL
GLOSS WHITE ENAMEL $18.79/GAL
PROMOTION:
FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00
THIN-SET MORTAR $8.40
JOINT COMPAND $17.50 5 GAL.
WATERCLOSET $86.00 & UP • SINK $33 & UP
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES, 12"*12" $0.79/pc • 8"*12" $0.52/pc
OTHERS
CEMENT $6.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.50/pc • 6"-$0.60/pc • 8"-$0.70/pc
#4 REBAR-$708.00/BDL
#3,#5-#8 REBAR-$738.00/ST
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER
U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $6.60
2X4X20 TREATED: $11.30

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.95	2X4X12 - $5.60
2X4X14 - $4.50	2X4X14 - $6.50
2X4X16 - $5.10	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X20 - $16.90
2X6X18 - $9.90	
2X6X20 - $10.90	

5/8" FLYFORM:	$24.80/PC
5/8" PHENOLIC FLYFORM:	$27.30/PC
WIRE MESH 7'*50':	$65.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100':	$117.00

15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
Never satisfied until you are
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS | MasterCard | VISA

MICROL TOYOTA
SPECIALS OF THE WEEK
2006 LEXUS IS250 4DR SEDAN

Price $24,999
Stock: U09-084P • License: ACJ-843
Mileage: 32134 • Auto • Silver

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDAN								
T07-02319	2007	YARIS 4DR SDN	AUTO	40454	WHITE	ACK-663	11,999	
T07-04043	2007	CAMRY XLE 4DR SDN	AUTO	30389	TURQUOISE	ADU-252	18,499	
R10-002F	2006	CAMRY 4DR SDN	AUTO	35070	BEIGE	ADN-161	14,699	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
GM VAN								
R10-001F	2005	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15 PAX	AUTO	64040	WHITE	BUS-1159	10,999	

WANTED
Looking at selling your vehicle, Microl is looking at purchasing used vehicles between 4 to 5 years of age and in good condition. If you are interested, please visit our Sales Department Monday thru Friday between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Monday 8:00am to 5:00pm | Tuesday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm | Saturday & Sunday Closed
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com
TOYOTA ACDelco

Grace Christian Ministries celebrates 25 years

Cellular PRO
Valentine's Day Special!
20% OFF ACCESSORIES
$10 FREE Cell Card with phone purchase!
www.cellularpro.net (670) 234-2776
Feb. 12 - Feb. 13, 2010
Nokia XpressMusic $299 GSM Quadband
Nokia X3 $259 GSM Quadband
Duet WG3 Touch $179 GSM Quadband
Nokia 5130 $159 GSM Quadband
Motorola Hint $189 CDMA
Motorola Rapture $159 CDMA
Nokia 6205 $99 CDMA
LG Rumor 1 $99 CDMA
LG vx5500 $79 CDMA
LG ax275 $75 CDMA
UTStarcom 7076 $50 CDMA
Samsung Smooth $45 CDMA (Limited 1 Per Customer Only)

This coming Feb. 28, Grace Christian Ministries—founding church of Grace Christian Academy—will celebrate 25 years of service in the Northern Mariana Islands.

GCM president Rev. Raymond Kinsella and congregation members invite the community to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a thanksgiving service and a day of fun and fellowship at Grace Christian Assembly on Navy Hill. The Sunday service will begin at 9am, followed by lunch and games.

"Twenty-five years ago God gave several of us young ministers in Guam a vision to start a ministry on Saipan," said Kinsella. "This month's celebration is a thank you to God for His faithfulness in allowing us to realize that vision to share His love with this community through Grace Christian Assembly and Grace Christian Academy."

What started as a Teen Challenge Center inside a former laundry mat in 1985 has grown to a ministry with a congregation of nearly 300 on Sunday mornings and over 275 students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rev. Raymond Kinsella and wife Elaine Kinsella share a tender moment at the May 2008 senior class graduation of Grace Christian Academy.

Since its opening in 1986, GCA has grown to a student body at its peak of over 700 students from kindergarten—4 to 12th grade. Three hundred have graduated since 1986 and have pursued post-secondary education in colleges and universities in seven countries, including the United States, Korea, and Japan.

The outreach of the church has continued through weekly community Bible study groups, as well as ministries for men, women, children, and youth. Worship ministry, hospital ministry, agape ministry food distribution, and multimedia ministry all provide church members opportunity for service.

"Our guiding scripture through the years has been John 4:35, 'I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest…Others have done the hard work you have entered into their labor,'" said Kinsella. ""There is still so much work that still need to be done and our eyes are still lifted to the need to share God's loves in the CNMI and beyond. God is truly faithful!"

In 1992 Grace Christian Ministries assumed the oversight of Assemblies of God churches on the islands of Rota and Tinian. By 1996 it had also established Christian schools on both islands. In 2009, the General Council of the Assemblies of God (AG) of the Northern Marianas was established with oversight for all the AG ministries in the NMI, as well as the Republic of Palau.

For more information, call Grace Christian Assembly at 322.5680. ***(PR)***

2010 models have arrived!
HONDA
The 2010 Civic
From thrifty to thrilling, Civic covers the spectrum.
UP TO 36 MPG**
The 2010 Accord
Comfort, luxury and advance technolgy.
UP TO 31 MPG**
Two-tier instrument panel. Sleek lines and futuristic styling invite adventure. Dramatic long windshield adds aerodynamics. Convenient remote entry for quick getaways. 1.8-Liter, 16-Valve SOHC i-VTEC® 4-cylinder engine. MacPherson Strut Front Suspension.
Built for the road with more style, more luxury and more sophistication than ever. It's 2.4 liter I-VTEC 4 cylinder engine offers great fuel economy. Other available features including a 6-disc CD changer, alloy wheels and leather interior complete the package.
The 2010 CR-V
AVAILABLE SOON!
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb 20

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will conduct a tax seminar on Feb. 20 at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel. Registration starts at 7:30am

The tax seminar will cover "Individual Tax Savings Tips for 2009"

Edgar T. Aguilar, manager for Tax Services of Deloitte & Touche LLP, will be the resource person for the seminar. Participants will have the chance to raise questions on tax matters to maximize money saving measures in filing their 2009 individual and corporate tax returns.

Registration fee per participant will be $12, which covers light breakfast and participant's certificate. Seminar materials will be provided. Renewal of MIFICPA's $5 annual membership dues will be collected on the day of the event only. For new members, the same fee applies. Seats are limited, so for advance reservation and for more information, contact any of the MIFICPA officers by either text or e-mail: Marlon Estigoy at 789-7943 (marlon@saipan.com); Christy Villaflor at 989-9123 (villaflor_chris@yahoo.com; Aileen Indino at 287-0305 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com); and Melvin Malvar at 789-2101(mjmalvar@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday Ashley Monique and Koby Sablan. Greeting from the Baza family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imee Fernandez celebrated her birthday yesterday. Greetings from friends at Saipan he Palms Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our beloved Mama Lalaine Liwag. May the good Lord grant the wishes of your heart. Love from Charlie and Donna Rivera, Rabago family, and from everyone who loves you here in Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Belated happy birthday and congratulations on the retirement of our dear friend and komaire Frances C. Mafnas. Too bad we will miss the good laughs but enjoy your permanent vacation. More blessings and love from komaire Pat and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Prevent Wounds & Callus!
CHC Diabetic Foot Clinic

Save Your Foot!

Wednesdays
9-11 a.m. @
CHC Physical Therapy

Ask your doctor for a referral today!

Tel: 236-8327/8

FOOT CLINIC
will teach you how to prevent wounds & callus.

Foot Clinic Includes:

Physical Therapy foot exam & instruction in diabetic foot care
Dietician for education in blood sugar control & nutrition
Patient educator will help you learn new ways to cope with diabetes & complications

• *If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.*

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
3 Years (36 Months) to
4 Years (48 Months)

- Cannot throw a ball overhand
- Cannot jump in place
- Cannot ride a tricycle
- Cannot grasp a crayon between thumb and fingers
- Still clings or cries whenever parents leave
- Shows no interest in interactive games
- Ignores other children
- Doesn't respond to people outside the family
- Doesn't engage in fantasy play
- Resists dressing, sleeping, using the toilet
- Lashes out without any self-control when angry or upset
- Doesn't use sentences of more than three words
- Doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Special Education Program** at
237-3029
for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Big Steps for Little Feet

CERTIFIED
Used Cars
1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Nissan Altima
STOCK # 5C179592
$11,995.00*

2006 Ford Fusion SEL
STOCK # 6R196428
$15,995.00*

2008 Nissan Rogue SL
STOCK # 8W016494
$20,995.00*

2005 Ford Ranger XL
STOCK # 5PB04608
$9,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4WD
STOCK # 4UB89287
$13,995.00*

2001 Ford Crown Victoria
STOCK # 1X167270
$7,995.00* (SOLD AS IS)

SOLD
2006 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 6N100020
$18,995.00*

2005 Ford Escape Limited 4WD
STOCK # 5KB01594
$14,995.00*

SOLD
2007 Ford Fusion S
STOCK # 7R127179
$13,995.00*

SOLD
2005 Nissan Frontier SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C400451
$20,995.00*

SOLD
2006 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4WD
STOCK # 6C662651
$19,995.00*

2008 Honda CR-V LX
STOCK # 8C029650
$20,995.00*

Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2008 Nissan Rogue SL AWD
STOCK # 68W146521
$21,995.00*

2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD
STOCK # 6C629879
$23,995.00*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

A LOOK AT PAST CAMPOREES

Boy scouts explore Anatahan Island

By OSCAR C. CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The author is the Troop Committee chairman for the NMI Boy Scouts. As part of celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, the Saipan Tribune *is publishing a series of articles featuring past camporees and activities of the local boy scouts program. The following is an excerpt of a longer article.*

Dennis, Rene, and Sepio share a Mountain Dew, the only one left. They filled the can with water and the thought of drinking it out of a Mountain Dew can is satisfying enough. The boys brought up an ice chest filled with Paka Paka fish caught by *Challenger* crew. Mr. Stan starts class and requested the boys bring leaves from ten different trees. Jonathan asked if he finds marijuana leaves should he bring that too. Everyone looked at him and wonder, then Rene and Dennis looked at me wondering if I should write the comment made and Jonathan instinctively retorted, "Hey, that's only a joke." Everyone laughed since I was instructed to write even the number of times each boy farts. "Now, that's a joke." Jonathan sings and the boys are off to gather request. Ton and Sepio go to where a little brown pig had previously scouted and started gathering. Ansen calls out the boys name for unknown reason. Jonathan wonders by himself and calls Ansen several times without success for response. Rene and Dennis go off somewhere.

Tony finds a dark, huge coconut crab. Mr. Ben measures the back and suggests that we let it go. We looked at him and Mr. Stan suggested that they compromise. I suggested we push Ben into the ravine for suggesting ridiculous rule imposed by his office. It's not a hunter season. Mr. Flores says that this giant crab is good "Sa ti posasadang, sa ti mamumulu." "A coconut crab grows hair." Funny, funny, funny but true. Tony knows the tying method. Mr. Ben suggests that name be withheld since permit was issued to adult not to boys. A special permit was issued for us to hunt and eat it here not to bring any to Saipan. Restrictions, restrictions, restrictions.

Mr. Stan starts lecture and describes the conditions in the forest as similar o that of a city. He asks for uses of leaves. Boys respond. Our function in forest area is to plant other trees to prevent erosion and to diversify plants, direct planting, going on a plain and spreading seeds by dropping, or going up the hill and dropping seed down hill. Asked boys to describe leaves brought. *Ficus Prolixea* or hotda, wildlife species feeding are bat and Marianas Dove. *Halihai*, *Banalu*, *Kafu*, and *Lalahat*—a medicinal plant *Latda* or *Larinda Citrifoila* or Indian Mulberry, its fruit is powered and mixed with water and drank as medicine. He shows boys a cut stem showing several rings and asked them to determine age of tree.

CALLING ALL BOYS AGES 7-17
PRIPARA MARIANAS BOY SCOUTS
NMI Boy Scout Family Fun Day
Saturday, February 13th
10:00am - 3:00pm
American Memorial Park Softball Fields
Join us for Games and Entertainment and find out more about the programs offered by the NMI Boy Scouts
For more information about Family Fun Day, Boy Scout Week, and to find out more about NMI Boy Scouts go to http:/ / nmiboyscouts.blogspot.com
The Boy Scouts of America is the BEST Organization for the development of young boys to responsible adults.

Autism Society meeting on Feb. 20

The Autism Society of the CNMI will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 20, 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room.

Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS
Do not provide alcohol to minors under 21!
Help keep our youth and community safe!
A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force.
Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Valentine Special

Couple Package $150.00
Couple Body Scrub with Honey Polish
Couple Serenity Signature Massage
Couple Anti-Aging Facial
Couple Steam Bath

Your Are The One $60.00
1 Body Scrub with Honey Polish
1 Deep Cleansing Facial
1 Under Arm Waxing
1 Steam Bath

Sweetheart Package $150.00
2 Body Scrub with Mud Treatment
2 Serenity Signature Massage
2 Deep Cleansing Facial
2 Steam Bath

Just For You Package $55.00
1 Body Scrub with Honey Polish
1 Serenity Signature Massage
1 Steam Bath

Be My Valentine Package $50.00
1 Serenity Signature Massage
1 Deep Cleansing Facial
1 Steam Bath & Treading

You're My Valentine Package $100.00
1 Body Scrub with Honey Polish
1 Serenity Signature Massage
1 Deep Cleansing Facial
1 Hair Spa Treatment
1 Manicure / Pedicure

$250.00 Special
BODY SCRUB WITH BODY WHITENING
(5 sessions + 1 session) - $250.00
BODY SCRUB WITH SEAWEED BODY WRAP
(5 sessions + 1 session) - $250.00
BODY SLIMMING - 2 HRS.
(5 sessions + 1 session) - $250.00

$100.00 Special
4 Body Scrub with Honey Polish - $100.00
5 Serenity Signature Massage - $100.00
5 Facial Treatment - $100.00
5 Foot Spa with Pedicure - $100.00
5 Under Arm
Whitening Treatment - $100.00

Serenity Salon & Spa

2nd floor of Dollar Days - Garapan Bldg.
Call for appointment at 233-6688 and ask for Pinky, Angie, Venus or Mercy

PRICE LIST

SERENITY SIGNATURE MASSAGE	$	25.00
AROMA MASSAGE (45 MINS.)	$	20.00
QUICK STRESS MASSAGE (30 MINS.)	$	15.00
ANTI-AGING FACIAL	$	35.00
DEEP CLEANSING FACIAL	$	25.00
AROMA FACIAL	$	25.00
TEEN FACIAL	$	20.00
EYELASH PERMING	$	20.00
NAIL ART ACRYLIC	$	25.00
MANICURE / PEDICURE	$	18.00
FOOT SPA WITH FOOT MASSAGE	$	15.00
HAIR REBONDING (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$	
HAIR RELAX (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$	
HAIR CUT WITH SHAMPOO & BLOW DRY	$	12.00
HAIR CUT LADIES	$	10.00
HAIR CUT MEN	$	7.00
HAIR PERMING	$	30.00
HAIR AND MAKE-UP	$	30.00
HALF LEGS WAXING	$	20.00
BACK WAXING	$	20.00
BRAZILLIAN WAXING	$	20.00
BIKINI WAXING	$	15.00
UNDER ARM WAXING	$	10.00
EYEBROW WAXING	$	8.00
EYEBROW THREADING	$	5.00
MUSTACHE TREADING	$	5.00

WEEKLY SPECIAL

MONDAY:	BODY MASSAGE	$20.00
TUESDAY:	MEN'S HAIR CUT	$5.00
	LADIES' HAIR CUT	$8.00
WEDNESDAY:	FACIAL	$20.00
THURSDAY:	HAIR SPA	$15.00

25% DISCOUNT FEBRUARY 12, 13 & 14 ON ALL SERVICES

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE.

Judy's Shop

Flowers, Gifts, Antiques

"The Island's Best Selection of Valentine's Day Flowers, Gifts & Balloons"

CALL US TODAY! 233-0011

Valentine's Day Special!

THIS VALENTINE'S, SEND YOUR LOVE WITH
FRESH FLOWERS, GIFT BASKETS, CHOCOLATES, & MORE

ROSE BOUQUETS/ SPECIAL WRAPPING
1 ROSE BOUQUET
3 ROSE BOUQUET
6 ROSE BOUQUET
1 DZ. BOUQUET

ROSE IN A BOX
1 ROSE IN A BOX
3 ROSE IN A BOX

VASE ARRANGEMENTS
1 ROSE IN A VASE
3 ROSE IN A VASE
6 ROSE IN A VASE
1 DZ. IN A VASE

ALSO AVAILABLE:
VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE, BALLOONS, TEDDY BEARS, & GIFT BASKETS

Yes We Deliver!

SPECIALLY DESIGNED BY: ALBERT

P.O. BOX 503424 SAIPAN, MP 96950 • TEL. 233-0011 • Located at Middle Rd., Garapan (across Pacific Quick Print)

Advertising Feature

2010 is Year of the Tiger

The Chinese use the lunar calendar for celebratory events which includes the New Year. This falls somewhere between late January and early February. The cycle of 12 animal signs originates from Chinese tradition as a way of naming the years. The animals follow one another in an established order and are replicated every twelve years. The rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig are the twelve animal signs. Every animal has particular characteristics and people born in a specific year are believed to take on these characteristics.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2010 is the Year of the Tiger, which commences on Feb. 14, 2010 and ends on Feb. 2, 2011. The Tiger is the third sign in the Chinese Zodiac cycle, and it is a sign of bravery. This courageous and fiery fighter is admired by the ancient Chinese as the sign that keeps away the three main tragedies of a household. These are fire, thieves and ghosts.

Tigers are physically powerful, gracious, independent and brave, they are extremely bold animals. They are friendly and loving but can also selfish and short tempered. Tigers seek attention and power; frequently they are envious in a relation. Tigers live dangerously which often leads to trouble. They are intolerant, take risks and are always searching for excitement. Tigers are also instilled with a good dose of courage.

The Tiger has an overpowering attraction and is very kind and always takes on the character as protector. The Tiger flourishes by power and attention and takes advantage of all circumstances it gets itself into. The Tiger is a natural leader and loves to be the centre of attention. As a rebel it goes up against authority and speaks out about wrongs in society, and willingly puts up objections. Even if you don't agree with the beliefs of the tiger you admire his way to protest.

Just as how their counterparts in the jungle are impulsive, so too are individuals born in the Chinese Year of the Tiger. When people think of tigers, it is their vigor and power that comes to mind first. But it has also been noted that tigers are known to share and are unselfish animals. The reason people admire the tiger is due to the fact that they are ferocious and domineering on the outside, but they are just as noble and distinguished on the inside. These are the same personality attributes that persons will have who are born in the Year of the Tiger.

People that are born in the Year of the Tiger are generally well liked because of their charismatic personalities. Often, failing at a given duty or being unproductive in his personal or professional life can cause a Tiger to experience a deep sense of depression.A Tiger is always at their happiest when they endeavor to climb the ladder of success. Attaining the top spot is his foremost purpose; being in a position of power is her ultimate goal. They are quick learners, need to be challenged and often prefer to work alone. Some Tigers tend to change careers more frequently because they get bored quite easily. They are natural born leaders and perform at their best if working towards positions of power and influence. So once there is no further room for progression, they will often move on to something else.

Anyone that is born in the Year of the Tiger is usually straightforward and outgoing by nature. They will never give up no matter how aggravated they may become. But, they are also full of suspicion and at times will take hasty action. Never lose sight of the fact that Tigers are smart and instinctive.

People born in the Year of the Tiger always take pride in being different from others, and normally demonstrate their originality best in their homes. Their homes are typically filled with exotic possessions. It is no surprise that one of the Tiger's favorite gemstones is the cat's eye, but tigers also love the sparkle of rubies and diamonds. They like to spend money, and also to share it. They can be very impulsive spenders because they know they can at all times make more.

The Year of the Tiger is the third year in the cycle of "Heavenly Branches". Customarily, it is called "Yin". Those born in the Year of the Tiger are compatible with the horse, dog, and dragons. The year 2010 is another Year of the Tiger. It is the ji-chou year. Jji is the sixth of the Ten Celestial Stems and yin is the third of the Twelve Terrestrial Branches and marks the Year of the Tiger.

Were you born during a Year of the Tiger?

You were if you were born in one of these years—1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, and 1998.

From www.yearofthetiger.net

2010
CHINESE
new year
YEAR OF THE TIGER
Commonly known as Chinese New Year, the Lunar New Year is celebrated throughout Asia. How the Chinese will ring in the Year of the Tiger:
The LEGEND
The celebration is said to originally have been a measure to drive away a creature called Nien, which attacked villagers at the Yellow River basin on New Year's; the villagers fought back, knowing Nien feared noise, light and the color red; they struck drums and gongs, performed lion dances, used red paint and illuminated their homes
Duration
Celebration traditionally lasts 15 days, but in modern times it may last only three; this year, it falls on Sunday, Feb. 14
Wishes
The Cantonese New Year greeting is "kung hey fat choi," meaning "wishing you prosperity"
The CALENDAR
Each year is governed by one of 12 animals– rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and pig
Rat
Ox
Tiger
Rabbit
Dragon
Snake
Horse
Sheep
Monkey
Rooster
Dog
Pig
• The Year of the Tiger
is thought to be dramatic, unpredictable and quick-paced
• Those born during tiger years
are thought to be restless, love freedom and independence; dislike routine, pettiness
© 2010 MCT
Source: Hong Kong Wonder Net, The Complete Book of Chinese Horoscopes, University of Birmingham

May this New Year bring you… Joy! Happiness! Success! Good Fortune!
Kung Hei Fat Choi!
恭喜發財
From the management and staff of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

虎
Kung Hei Fat Choi!
Let prosperity and good health
color your days in this Year of the Tiger
Century Hotel
FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
Tel: (670) 234-6412
www.fiestasaipan.com
SGH
Saipan Grand Hotel
Tel: (670) 234-6601
www.thegrandexcitement.com
Century Hotel
Tel: (670) 233-1420/3
www.centuryhotel-saipan.com
A TanHoldings Company

Kung Hei Fat Choi!
虎
Your complete Worldwide Shipping Service Group
SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY
SINCE 1956
• Asia, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, South Pacific Service with
KYOWA LINES
• Your new and improved reliable weekly Marianas Inter-Island vessel service and Fortnightly service to Rota and Tinian with
SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC.
• General Agency and Freight Services, Sea or Air transport with clearance and delivery services in Saipan and Guam in conjunction with
MARIANAS STEAMSHIP AGENCIES
and MSA LOGISTICS.
• Call or see anyone of us for reliable, safe and professional shipping services
SAIPAN
TINIAN
ROTA
GUAM
Saipan Shipping Co., Inc.
"Pacific Roots – Global Reach"
Port of Saipan, SAISHIP Bldg.
P.O. Box 500008, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 322-9706/7 • Fax: (670) 322-3183
E-mail: saiship@saipanshipping.com
Marianas Steamship Agencies
"Your interisland and Pacific link to the world"
2nd Floor, Port Annex, Commercial Port, Apra Harbor
P.O. Box 3219, Hagatna, Guam 96910
Tel: (671) 472-8584 • Fax: (671) 472-8585/477-5692
Telex: (671) 7216754 MSAGM • E-mail: marsteam@ite.net

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ross Chan-Matsuda poses in front of Chinese panels used as decors in the Chinese Association of Saipan office in China Town.

Chinese community celebrates New Year

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ross Chan-Matsuda is hoping the Year of the Tiger will be very good for the CNMI.

The Chinese Association of Saipan will share the celebration of the Chinese New Year to the community by holding traditional lion dance performances at various hotels and establishments for two days.

The Chinese New Year falls on Feb. 14 and to mark the start of the "Lunar New Year," the Chinese lion dance troupe will perform eight times this Sunday starting at 10:15am until 8pm. Venues include Century Hotel, Saipan Grand Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Palms Resort, Canton Restaurant, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Star Sands Plaza, and Duty Free Shop.

The following day, Feb. 15, the lion dance will take place at the TSL Plaza in Garapan at 8:30am. The association will then bring the lion dance performance to Tinian through the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and the last performance of the day will be held at 3:30pm at Subway Investment Corp. in Gualo Rai.

"The lion dance brings good luck and prosperity to the new year. In the CNMI, we members of the Chinese community hope for a better economy, more blessings to all the people here, peace, and good health," Chinese Association of Saipan director Rose Chan-Matsuda said.

"Saipan and Tinian residents are invited to watch these performances and they are free," Chan-Matsuda added.

Spring Festival

Chan-Matsuda said the Chinese New Year is also called Spring Festival, which is a 15-day celebration that concludes with the Lantern Festival and is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays

"It means new life which brings new hope and new happiness," she said.

Chan added the long celebration is marked by gatherings of family members, giving of hung bao or red packet filled with money, enormous preparation of food for family members and friends, used of flowers and plants as decors, and firecrackers.

"Firecrackers are used to drive away bad spirits, to scare evil, and put away all the bad lucks in the past year," Chan-Matsuda said.

Year of the Tiger

2010 is the Year of the Tiger, which according to Chan-Matsuda symbolizes toughness and stamina.

"I believe this will be a good year for us, as we will be able to overcome any difficulties that come to us. Just like the Tiger, he is strong, cannot be frightened, and is ready to fight," Chan-Matsuda said.

"Tiger is a symbol of power and authority. This kind of personality is good for the leadership," she added.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ross Chan-Matsuda wears a traditional Chinese dress.

Fireworks display

Chan-Matsuda said although most of them will not celebrate Chinese New Year the traditional way or for 15-days, they will still have a grand party on Feb. 20 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The festivities will run from 6pm to 10pm and will highlight a colorful firework display, a bounty of food, performances, and other exciting programs.

For more information or for ticket inquiries, contact Chan-Matsuda at 234-7236 or visit Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

Chan-Matsuda exclaimed "Kung Hei Fat Choi!" ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

On behalf of the staff and management of TanHoldings affiliates throughout the region, we extend our best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year of the Tiger!

Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

To the Chinese community
in the CNMI,

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

虎

May we all prosper to this
new Year of the Tiger!

From the management and staff of

Venus
BEAUTY SALON

CANTON

Rose
DANCE SCHOOL

廣東酒樓祝賀全島華人：新春快樂!

The most important of the traditional Chinese holidays, New Year's is a festive time for feasting, family reunions and thanksgiving.

As we celebrate the "Year of the Tiger", the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are especially grateful for our many friends from China that have chosen to visit or do business in our islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

We welcome you to enjoy our atmosphere of warm local hospitality. We look forward to good fortune in the New Year for both the people of China and the Northern Mariana Islands as we continue to build upon and strengthen our ties of tourism, business and friendship.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!

Governor Benigno R. Fitial
&
Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos

美國塞班中華總會
祝賀塞班島全體華人同胞庚寅年
新春快樂

人逢盛世精神壯 虎躍奇峰氣勢雄

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

CHINESE ASSOCIATION
SAIPAN, CNMI

Lion Dance Schedule

Sunday, February 14, 2010

10:15 am	Century Hotel
10:30 am	Grand Hotel
11:00 am	Hyatt Regency Saipan
11:30 pm	Palms Resort Saipan
12:00 pm	Canton Restaurant
6:00 pm	Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
7:00 pm	Star Sand Plaza
8:00 pm	Duty Free Shop

Monday, February 15, 2010

8:30 am	TSL Plaza
10:30 am	Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
3:30 pm	Subway Investment Corp. (Gualo Rai)

Come and join us in our
Chinese New Year Party
on February 20th, Saturday from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm.
at Fiesta Resort & Spa.
For tickets, please call 234-7236 or visit the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

Thank you to all our sponsors

9922
ACA CORP. (I ♥ SAIPAN)
ADOR CHINESE RESTAURANT
BANK OF SAIPAN
CANTON RESTAURANT
CENTURY HOTEL
CENTURY INSURANCE CO.
CENTURY TOUR
CHINA HOUSE RESTAURANT
CITY TRUST BANK
COCA-COLA COMPANY
CRYSTAL PALACE
CTSI LOGISTICS
DIAMOND RESTAURANT
DOCOMO PACIFIC
DOLLAR DAY
DOUBLE LUCK INT'L INC
DUTY FREE SHOP
FENG HUA STORE
FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN
GOURMET RESTAURANT
GUANDONG DEV. CO. LTD
HERMAN'S BAKERY
HONG YE CONSTRUCTION CO.
HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN
IT&E
KEVIN STORE
MICRO BEACH HOTEL
MING LI STORE
MING MING STORE
MODERN STATIONARY
NIC HEALTH
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
PACIFIC SUBSEA
PALMS RESORT SAIPAN
PEARL RIVER
POI
ROSE DANCE SCHOOL
ROSE KARAOKE
ROYAL SUPPLY
SAIPAN OCEAN VIEW HOTEL
SAIPAN GRAND HOTEL
SAIPAN SHIPPING CO., INC.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE
STAR SAND PLAZA
SUBWAY
SUNLEADER SUPPER MART
SUNNY WHOLESALE
TAN HOLDINGS
TSL PLAZA
TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL & CASINO
TRANSAMERICA CORP.
TRANSPACIFIC INT'L INC
VENUS BEAUTY SALON
WORLD RESORT SAIPAN
WUSHIN CORPORATION
YANTZE RIVER RESTAURANT
YAONG CORPORATION

Blizzards, accidents dampen Chinese New Year spirits

BEIJING (Xinhua)—It's supposed to be a time of family reunions, new year greetings and fireworks, but blizzards and accidents on Wednesday put a damper on the Chinese New Year.

XINHUA

A staff member leads stranded passengers at a long-distance bus station in Taiyuan, north China's Shanxi Province, on Feb. 10, 2010. Several expressways in Shanxi were closed and the long-distance bus services in Taiyuan were suspended due to the heavy snow hitting the northern province on Tuesday night, local transport authorities said.

The country is experiencing the peak travel period with millions of people are eager to get away from tough jobs to go home for the most important Chinese holiday, which falls on Sunday. The mass movement of people is the largest human migration on the earth.

In the southern Guangdong Province, China's business hub, about 100,000 migrant workers are expected to ride motorcycles to go home to neighboring Hunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi provinces, to avoid train jams and high train ticket prices.

"It will be a tiring 10-hour motorcycle ride, but I can save a lot of money by not taking a train," said a migrant worker surnamed Huang who set off at 6 a.m. Wednesday for his home in neighboring Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Traffic police set up more than a dozen rest areas along major national highways so workers could warm their hands, drink some hot tea and repair their motorcycles before continuing their trip.

Railway stations across the country have been crowded with millions of migrant workers carrying belongings and trying to buy tickets home. For some, this is the one chance they have per year to return home with gifts for their family. The railways are expected to carry 210 million passengers during the 40-day travel period that began January 30.

But a blizzard that hit at least six provinces and regions in northern China Tuesday and Wednesday has disrupted tens of thousands of homecoming trips.

Railway authorities say trains will slow down once fresh snow measures 40 cm. Train service will be halted if the snow depth exceeds 50 cm.

The Ministry of Transport said at least 24 expressways were closed nationwide amid heavy snow by Wednesday morning in the provinces of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Hebei, Shandong and Henan, as well as in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Besides the bad weather, traffic accidents caused by the crush of people and tired driving are straining the nerves of passengers and government officials.

More than 600 traffic accidents occurred in the northwestern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region between Tuesday and Wednesday. No casualties were reported, said the regional traffic police.

In Gansu Province, nine people were killed and another 24 injured after a bus with 33 passengers veered off the road and fell into a ravine Wednesday morning near Longnan City.

More than 270,000 police have been busy trying to keep order on the roads, cracking down on speeding, overloading and other offences, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The holiday is also an annual headache for authorities as workshops, mostly illegal and poorly run, are speeding up production of fireworks, a must have item when celebrating the Spring Festival.

Three people died and another two were injured Wednesday after a blast in a fireworks plant in Anshun City in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

2010
Year of the Tiger
虎
MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES, Ltd.
Think positively and good things will come
Work hard and prosperity will be close by
Kung Hei Fat Choi
Mariana Express Lines, Ltd.
MELL service profile is based on the value of dependability and commitment to customer satisfaction. It guarantees reliable service that prides of schedule integrity--- regular and frequent shipments to meet the challenge of your time-sensitive business.
E-mail: joven_cruz@mariana-express.com
Website: www.marianas-express.com
Call us at (670) 322-1690
CTSI
Logistics

Start the (Chinese) New Year fresh

The Chinese New Year is a chance to leave the problems of the previous year behind. It is important to start the New Year fresh, and this means cleaning up the house and buying new clothes.

Houses are decorated with red paper banners which have auspicious couplets written on them. These are hung around doorways and are intended to bring luck to the household for the coming year.

Red is an important color in Chinese culture, symbolizing prosperity. Many people will wear red clothing during the New Year celebrations, and houses will have many red decorations such as Chinese knot work.

Red envelopes

Red envelopes are given to children and unmarried adults. Married couples also give red envelopes to their parents.

The envelopes contain money. The money must be in new bills, and the total amount must be an even number. Certain numbers (such as four) are bad luck, so the total amount should not be one of these unlucky numbers. "Four" is a homonym for "death," so a red envelope should never contain $4, $40, or $400.

Fireworks

Evil spirits are driven away by loud noise, so Chinese New Year is a very loud celebration. Long strings of firecrackers are set off throughout the holiday, and there are many displays of fireworks lighting up the evening skies.

Some countries such as Singapore and Malaysia restrict the use of fireworks, but Taiwan and Mainland China still allow almost unrestricted use of firecrackers and other fireworks.

From www.about.com

TWINS SUPERMARKET

...the place where you can buy goods at affordable and low prices...

DANDAN
235-8989 • OPEN : 24HOURS

Valentine's Sale
FEBRUARY 12, 13 & 14, 2010

LOWER NAVY HILL
322-4989 • OPEN 6AM-11PM

WE ACCEPT MAJOR CREDIT CARDS PACIFIC EXPRESS · AMERICAN EXPRESS · DISCOVER NETWORK · VISA · JCB · MasterCard

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

- Diamond G Rice — $29.99 50 LBS. / $13.99 20 LBS.
- Lotus Rice — $24.99 50 LBS.
- Brown Rice/ Sweet Rice — $4.99 5 LBS
- Chicken Leg Quarter LIMIT 2 — $20.99 33 LBS. / $15.99 22 LBS.
- Pork Spareribs LIMIT 2 — $15.99 20 LBS.
- Baby Ribs LIMIT 2 — $15.99 /CASE
- Young Whole Chicken LIMIT 2 — $33.99 30 LBS.
- Philadelphia Cream Cheese — $2.50
- U.S. Eggs Extra Large — $2.19 /DOZ. LIMIT 4 DOZ.
- Tyson Anytizer All Kinds — $3.99 12 OZ.
- Hot Pockets/ Lean Pockets — 2 for $6.00 1 12 OZ.
- Oscar Mayer Lunchables — BUY 1 TAKE 1 $2.99
- Kashi Pizza 11.9 OZ. — 2 FOR $10.00
- Vega Shrimp — $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6
- Green Mussels — $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1
- Folgers Coffee — $9.99 33.9 OZ.
- Excellent Flour/ Rice Stick — 79¢
- Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES — $19.99 /CASE

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • PRODUCE • GROCERY ITEMS

- Miller Sausage — $14.99 5 LBS.
- Ground Beef — $9.99 5 LBS. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Beef Rib Finger — $2.99 /LB
- Ground Pork — $2.39 1 LB. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Gusto's Chopped Ham — $7.99 5 LBS. / $15.99 10 LBS.
- Bar S Jumbo Franks — $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2
- Bar S Bacon — $2.49 /PKG.
- Hoffy Portugese Sausage — $1.99 /PKG.
- Lamb Shoulder Roll — $4.99 1 LB.
- Bar S Premium Deli Ham — 50% OFF
- Pork Loin Boneless — $2.99 1 LB.
- T-Bone Steak — $3.99 /LB.
- Tillamook Swisscheese 1 LB. — $4.50
- Shredd's Spread Country Crock 15 OZ. — $3.29
- Blue Bonnet Butter 16 OZ. — $1.30
- Kraft Shredded Cheese Al Kinds 8 OZ. — $3.50
- Seaport Surimi Crab Meat — $1.99
- Mackerel Pike — $20.99 22 LBS.
- Tilapia — 99¢ /LB / $37.99 /CASE
- Milkfish — $1.49 /LB
- Chicken Wings 5 LBS. — $11.99
- Totino's All Kinds — $1.99 10.2 OZ.
- Totino's Pizza Rolls — $8.99 44.5 OZ.
- Cucumber — 39¢ /LB.
- Broccoli — $1.59
- Cabbage — 79¢ /LB.
- Garlic (4 pcs.) — 89¢ /LB.
- Potato (Jumbo) — 79¢ /LB.
- Orange — 89¢ /LB.
- Watermelon — 49¢ /LB.

CANNED GOODS • BEVERAGES • SNACKS • GROCERY ITEMS

- Spam (All Flavors) — $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Palm Corned Beef 11.5 OZ. — $2.79
- Hormel Corned Beef Hash — $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ox & Palm Corned Beef — $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Corned Beef — $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Black Label — $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Chili No Beans — $1.99
- Master A1 Tuna — 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ace Diamond Tuna — $1.19 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ligo Sardines — 3 for $1.00
- Century Tuna (All Flavors) — 79¢ EACH
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew 40 OZ. — $3.99
- Maggi Magic Sarap Seasoning 12 Sachets/Pack — $1.00
- Knorr Carb & Corn Soup 60 g. — $1.25
- Chicken Noodle — 99¢ /PACK
- Sugar — 99¢ 1 KG. / $1.79 2 KG. LIMIT 2
- Kikkoman — $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.
- Kimchee Base — $4.99 450G
- Lemon Powder — $4.99 /CASE
- UFC Catsup 1 GALLON — $3.99
- Chorizzos — $26.99 LIMIT 1
- Ventura Mayonaise — $9.99 1 GALLON
- Tabasco 12 OZ. — $6.99
- Vlassic Dill Pickles — $5.99 WHOLE / $6.99 SLICE
- Real Fresh Milk 1 LITER — $19.99 /CASE
- Foremost Reduced Fat 1 LITER — $14.99 /CASE
- Promil Ages 1 to 3 — $22.99 1.8 KG.
- Enfamil Milk — $16.99 12.5 OZ. / $29.99 23.4 OZ. / $39.99 LIQUID CASE
- Maseca Flour — $3.99 5 LBS.
- Hungarian Flour — $2.75 5 LBS.
- Ichiban — $8.99 /BOX
- Korean Bowl Noodle — $7.99 /CASE
- Lucky Me Pancit Canton — 4 for $1.00
- Golden Creme Ice Cream All Flavor 1.6 LR. — $4.99
- Kraft Cool Whip Al Kinds 8 OZ. — $1.99
- Kraft Parmesan Cheese 16 OZ. — $2.99
- AVO Vegetable Oil — $6.99 1 GALLON
- Canola Oil — $8.99 1 GALLON
- Salad Oil — $23.99 5 GALLON
- Datu Puti Vinegar — $2.99 1 GALLON
- Springfield String Cheese 16 OZ. — $4.99 16 PCS.
- Coffee Mix — $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS
- Seok Water — $4.99 LIMIT 2 /CASE
- Sunkist Juice — $5.99 /CASE LIMIT 1
- Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY — $12.99 /CASE LIMIT 2
- Natural Ice Beer — $17.99 /CASE / $5.00 6 PACK

NON-FOOD

- Tide Detergent — $3.99 2.8 KG. / $6.99 5 KG.
- Gain Powder LIMIT 2 — $11.99 80 LOADS
- Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kind) 50 OZ. — $4.99 LIMIT 2
- Joy Dishwashing — $5.99 90 OZ.
- Dawn Diswashing — $7.99 90 OZ.
- Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) — $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- Candle Jar — $1.39 EACH / $12.99 CASE
- Sunsilk Shampoo & Conditioner — 2 for $5.00
- Clorox — $3.29 3 QR.
- Bounty Paper Towel — $18.99 15 ROLLS
- Diamond Foil — $6.99 200 SQ.FT.
- Bounty Basic — $8.99 8 ROLLS
- Toilet Tissue — $2.99 10 ROLLS
- Charmin Regular — $6.99 24 ROLLS
- Special Value Dog Food — $25.99 40 LBS.
- Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT — $6.99 LIMIT 1

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99	Beef Backribs	$6.99
Pork Belly	$10.99	Beef Shortribs	$14.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99	Quarter Legs	$4.99
Pork Chops	$10.99	Beef Ribeye Steak	$15.99
Beef Stew	$13.99	Flank Steak	$17.99

Business

China's January inflation eases to 1.5 percent

BEIJING (AP)—A spike in China's inflation eased in January, reducing pressure for Beijing to hike interest rates and cool surging prices as it tries to keep a recovery in world's third-largest economy on track.

Consumer prices climbed 1.5 percent over a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics reported Thursday. That was down from December's 1.9 percent rise, the highest rate in nearly two years.

The decline suggested Beijing can put off taking drastic steps such as a rate hike that would have global repercussions if it slowed China's recovery and cooled rising Chinese demand for imported industrial raw materials and consumer goods.

Bank of Korea keeps rate at record low 2 percent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's central bank left its key interest rate at a record low Thursday after the country's economic growth slowed at the end of last year, unemployment spiked to a nine-year high in January and concerns grew over financial turmoil in Europe.

The Bank of Korea kept the benchmark seven-day repurchase rate at 2 percent at a monthly policy meeting for a 12th straight month.

South Korea's economic growth slowed in the fourth quarter of last year on weakness in manufacturing, construction and exports, a sign that the country's vigorous recovery from the depths of the global economic meltdown is losing steam.

Gross domestic product grew 0.2 percent in the three months ended Dec. 31 compared with the previous quarter. South Korea's economy, Asia's fourth largest, had expanded 3.2 percent in the third quarter, its strongest performance in more than seven years.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Foreclosures down in January, but surge on way?

The number of U.S. households facing foreclosure in January increased 15 percent from the same month last year, and a surge in cash-strapped homeowners who've fallen behind on mortgages could be on the way. More than 315,000 households received a foreclosure-related notice in January, RealtyTrac Inc. reported Thursday. That number is down nearly 10 percent from 349,000 in December, which saw the third highest total since the company began tracking foreclosure data in 2005. In January, one in 409 homes were sent a filing, which includes default notices, scheduled foreclosure auctions and bank repossessions. Banks repossessed more than 87,000 homes last month, down 5 percent from December but still up 31 percent from January 2009. *(AP)*

Oil rises near $75 as traders eye stocks, dollar

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $75 a barrel Thursday in Asia as traders looked for guidance from stock and currency markets amid a muddled crude demand outlook. Benchmark crude for March delivery was up 29 cents at $74.81 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 77 cents to settle at $74.52 on Wednesday. Oil has zigzagged recently—jumping about 7 percent since touching $69.59 a barrel on Friday after falling from $84 last month—as investors struggle to forecast crude demand amid a sluggish global economy.

PHONE STORE
Valentine's Day & Chinese New Year
SALE
Sale from: February 11 to February 16, 2010
LG Venus $190.00
Samsung Intensity $150.00
LG Rumor 2 $165.00
Samsung Trance $180.00
Motorola Rival A455 $180.00
LG ENV 3 $265.00
LG ENV Touch $325.00
Motorola W755 $115.00
Samsung 320 $80.00
LG Lotus $175.00
Motorola W766 $115.00
Blackberry Pearl 8130 $160.00
Blackberry 8120 GSM/WiFi $210.00
J3000 WiFi GSM Quad Band $165.00
SciPhone G2 GSM/WiFi $155.00
MS VILLAGOMEZ BLDG.
PHONE STORE
RESTAURANT
To San Antonio
CHALAN, KANOA, BEACH ROAD
To Garapan
POST OFFICE
BUSINESS HOURS: Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 9:00pm • Sunday:11 am to 8 pm
We REPAIR Cell Phones
We also take orders
WE ALSO SELL BRAND NEW, USED CELL PHONES & ACCESORIES
P.O. Box-505636 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel #:234-6666

Nation

Enough already: Snow breaks mid-Atlantic records

WASHINGTON (AP)—Worst winter ever? The second blizzard in less than a week buried the most populous stretch of the East Coast under nearly a foot of snow Wednesday, breaking records for the snowiest winter and demoralizing millions of people still trying to dig out from the previous storm.

Conditions in the nation's capital were so bad that even plows were advised to get off the roads, and forecasters were eyeing a third storm that could be brewing for next week.

For many families, the first storm was a fun weekend diversion. People even went skiing past Washington's monuments. But Wednesday's blizzard quickly became a serious safety concern. The Pennsylvania governor shut down some highways and warned that people who drove were risking their lives.

"I've seen enough," said Bill Daly, 57, as gusts of wind and snow lashed his face in Arlington, Va., where streets were nearly empty just a few days after people had been playing in the snow.

"It's scary and beautiful at the same time. I wanted to shovel but thought if I had a heart attack it could be a while before anybody found me in this kind of weather."

Old-timers talk about a storm that blew through Washington in 1922, collapsing the roof on the Knickerbocker theater and killing more than 90 people. Their great-great-grandchildren will be able to describe the back-to-back blizzards of 2010, which were not nearly as deadly but set records for the snowiest winters ever in Washington and Baltimore.

Up to 16 inches fell in parts of western Maryland. Reagan National Airport outside Washington had nearly 10 inches by 2 p.m., and Baltimore got nearly a foot. That was on top of totals up to 3 feet in some places from the weekend storm.

"I have never in my lifetime seen or heard anything quite like this," said D.C. Fire Chief Dennis L. Rubin, who was born and raised in the District.

The previous records for snowiest winters were 62.5 inches in Baltimore in 1995-96, and 54.4 inches in Washington in 1898-99. As of Wednesday afternoon, Baltimore had 72.3 inches so far this winter and Reagan had 54.9.

Heavy snow also fell in New York and New Jersey. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights, and New York City's 1.1 million schoolchildren enjoyed only their third snow day in six years.

Report: Hundreds forced into labor, sex in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—About 1,000 American-born children are forced into the sex trade in Ohio every year and about 800 immigrants are sexually exploited and pushed into sweatshop-type jobs, a new report on human trafficking in the state said Wednesday.

Ohio's weak laws on human trafficking, its growing demand for cheap labor and its proximity to the Canadian border are key contributors to the illegal activity, according to a report by the Trafficking in Persons Study Commission.

"Ohio is not only a destination place for foreign-born trafficking victims, but it's also a recruitment place," said Celia Williamson, an associate professor at the University of Toledo who led the research.

Formed last year by Ohio Attorney General Richard Condray, the commission also found that hundreds more in the state are at risk of being forced into sex trafficking or to work against their will in fields, restaurants, sweatshops or constructions sites.

Chilling aerial photos of 9/11 attack released

NEW YORK (AP)—A trove of aerial photographs of the collapsing World Trade Center was widely released this week, offering a rare and chilling view from the heavens of the burning twin towers and the apocalyptic shroud of smoke and dust that settled over the city.

The images were taken from a police helicopter—the only photographers allowed in the airspace near the skyscrapers on Sept. 11, 2001. They were obtained by ABC after it filed a Freedom of Information Act request last year with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the federal agency that investigated the collapse.

The chief curator of the planned Sept. 11 museum pronounced the pictures "a phenomenal body of work."

The photos are "absolutely core to understanding the visual phenomena of what was happening," said Jan Ramirez of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. They are "some of the most exceptional images in the world, I think, of this event."

In some of the pictures, the tops of the nearby Woolworth Building and other skyscrapers can just be seen above the enormous cloud of debris, gray against a clear blue sky. Gray clouds billow through the streets of the financial district and shroud the 16 acres where the towers had stood just moments before.

ACROSS THE NATION

NASA studying 2 new space shuttle problems

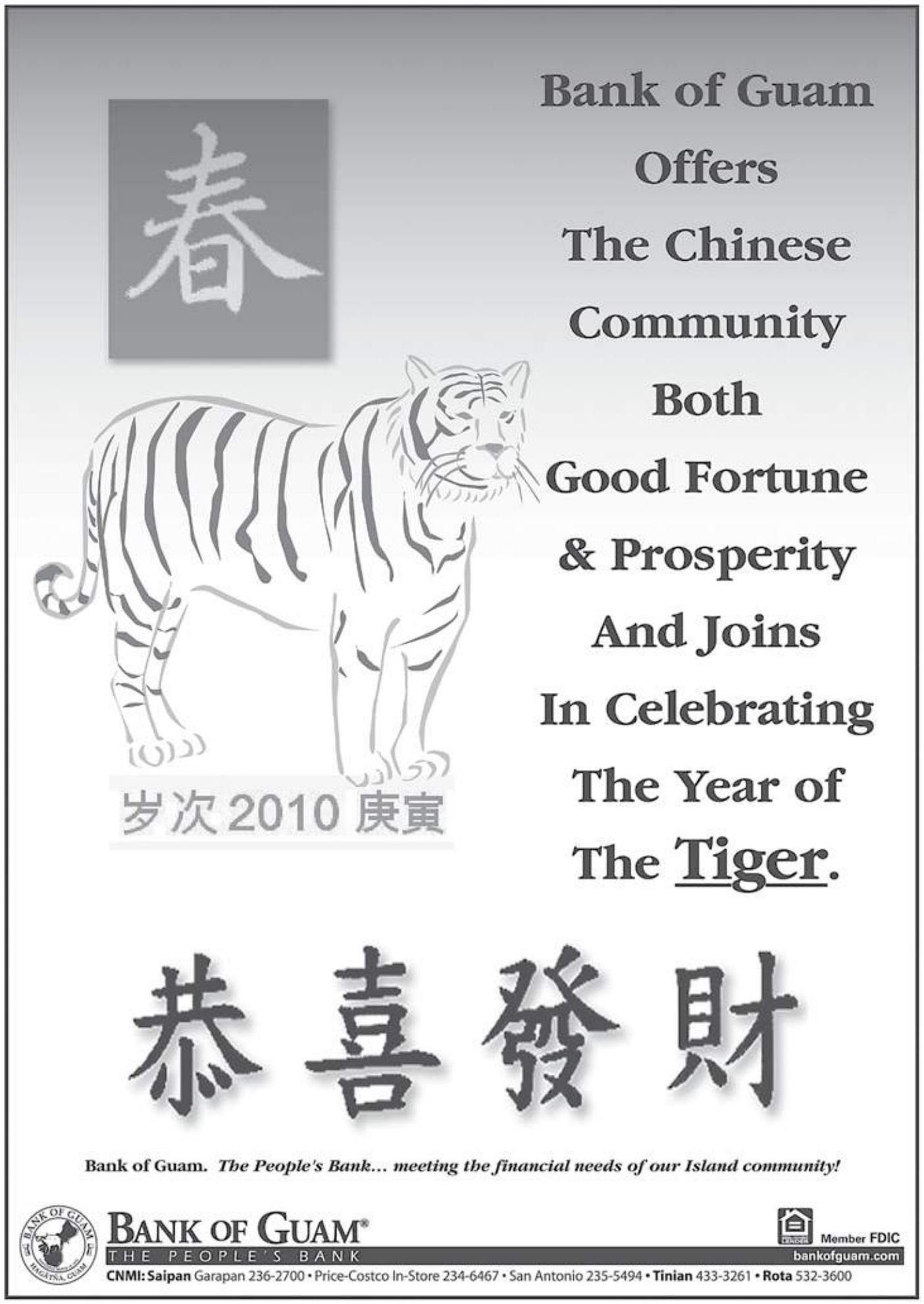
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA was assessing a cracked thermal tile and protruding ceramic ring Wednesday on the space shuttle Endeavour—two new problems that don't appear serious but warrant extra attention. "Initially, it doesn't look like we're going to be very concerned about them," said mission management team leader LeRoy Cain. "But we want to be very vigilant and take a closer look." As engineers on the ground scrambled to understand the problems and determine whether repairs were needed, the 11 astronauts aboard the linked space shuttle and space station spent a relatively quiet first day together. They overcame a spacesuit problem in advance of Thursday night's spacewalk and replaced broken parts in a system that turns astronauts' urine into drinking water.

Former Texas Rep. Charlie Wilson dies at 76

DALLAS (AP)—Charlie Wilson, the fun-loving Texas congressman whose backroom dealmaking funneled millions of dollars in weapons to Afghanistan, allowing the country's underdog mujahedeen rebels to beat back the mighty Soviet Red Army, died Wednesday. He was 76. Wilson died at Memorial Medical Center-Lufkin after having difficulty breathing after attending a meeting in the eastern Texas town where he lived, said hospital spokeswoman Yana Ogletree. Wilson was pronounced dead on arrival, and the preliminary cause of death was cardiopulmonary arrest, she said.

Ex-aide: Elizabeth Edwards has threatened lawsuit

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP)—A former aide to John Edwards says the two-time presidential candidate's wife has threatened to sue him for contributing to the downfall of their marriage. Andrew Young said Wednesday that Elizabeth Edwards has threatened an "alienation of affection" lawsuit. Young said he had anticipated that the Edwards family would come after him following his book about the candidate's affair. An alienation of affection lawsuit allows a person to sue a third party for contributing to the breakup of a marriage. Jilted spouses typically seek money from their partner's lover. North Carolina is one of only about a half-dozen states that still have such a law.



Asia

Afghans airlift bodies as avalanche deaths hit 166

KABUL (AP)—Helicopters ferried rescuers to and bodies away from the site of a massive avalanches that blocked an important mountain pass north of Kabul as the death toll soared Wednesday to 166, officials said. Hundreds more remained trapped in snowbound cars.

Afghan army troops dug through huge snowdrifts trying to rescue people from buried vehicles in the Salang Pass, a key road that connects the Afghan capital with the north.

The 3.5 miles (four kilometers) of road that were subsumed in the avalanches have been cleared of snow, but are littered with abandoned or snow-packed cars that still make much of it impassable, said the public works minister, Suharab Ali Safari.

Interior Ministry spokesman Zemeri Bashary said rescuers have recovered 166 bodies from the Salang Pass, 70 miles (115 kilometers) north of Kabul, over the past two days.

Some of the victims were found frozen to death inside their vehicles, while in other cases, their bodies were strewn along the road, he said.

Bashary said late Wednesday that the rescue operation was "95 percent over," suggesting authorities did not expected further significant increases in the death toll.

President Hamid Karzai expressed his sorrow for the increasing death toll in a statement.

More than two dozen avalanches—which were triggered Monday—poured tons of snow and ice on the 12,700-feet-high (3,800-meter) pass. The 1.6 mile (2.6 kilometer)-long Salang Tunnel, a Soviet-built landmark dating from the 1960s through the Hindu Kush mountains, was cut off, with dozens of cars, buses and trucks jammed inside.

"The avalanche was very strong. It pushed the cars 200 yards (meters) away from the road," said Safari, the public works minister.

At a news conference in Kabul, Bashary said ambulances, bulldozers and other road-clearing equipment were now able to get to the site. About 2,600 people have been rescued so far, he said.

Some 400 police, along with 100 local volunteers, have been involved in the frantic effort to dig out survivors in the last 24 hours, he said.

Bashary said 135 bodies have been taken to Parwan province to the north while the remainder were taken to Baglan province in the south.

AP

Afghan soldiers arrive to search for avalanche victims in Salang Pass, some 115 kilometers (71 miles) north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

Pakistani officials confirm Taliban chief is dead

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani government confirmed for the first time Wednesday that the country's Taliban leader has died of injuries sustained in a U.S. drone strike in mid-January, setting the stage for a potential succession struggle that could further weaken the group.

Mehsud

But analysts caution that Hakimullah Mehsud's death would not deal the al-Qaida-linked militants a knockout blow nor bring an end to attacks that have killed hundreds of people in the past few months. A suicide bomber attacked a vehicle carrying tribal police near Pakistan's volatile border with Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing 17 people.

The Pakistani Taliban continue to deny Mehsud's death, but the group used the same tactic when his predecessor was killed by a U.S. missile less than six months ago, only admitting his demise weeks later to give the group time to choose a successor. Analysts believe the same dynamic could be at work now.

"There will be some sort of a struggle for power for at least some time and that is why they are hiding his death," retired general and military analyst Talat Masood said. "It will take some time for them to recover in the sense of having proper leadership."

The Pakistani government said more than a week ago that it was investigating reports of Mehsud's death following a Jan. 14 drone strike that targeted him in the South Waziristan tribal area. But Wednesday was the first time officials confirmed that they believe the militant leader is dead.

SKorea, Japan press NKorea to rejoin nuclear talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and Japan stepped up pressure Thursday on North Korea to quickly rejoin nuclear disarmament talks, while a senior U.N. envoy was in Pyongyang amid a flurry of diplomacy to reopen the on-and-off negotiations.

In Beijing, top nuclear negotiators were to meet Thursday for a third straight day to discuss how to jump-start the six-nation talks that involve the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan.

The past two days of talks in Beijing were believed to focus on North's calls for the lifting of U.N. sanctions and a peace treaty with Washington formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War as preconditions for its return to the disarmament talks, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said in a report citing unidentified diplomatic sources.

In Seoul, the foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan brushed aside North Korea's demand, saying the regime first must return to the disarmament talks and show progress on denuclearization before any discussion on a peace treaty or sanctions.

"We shared the view that North Korea's return to the six-party talks and substantial progress in its denuclearization must be made first," South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told reporters during a joint press conference with his Japanese counterpart, Katsuya Okada.

Okada also said he and Yu agreed North Korea must first carry out denuclearization and other measures.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-016

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Power Generation facilities in Saipan.

A mandatory pre-bid and site visit meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 1O:OO AM (CHST) local time at the Power Generation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-016 GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:OO AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Contract will be awarded for a (1) One Year Term, upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Selected firm must provide its company's latest BGRT/Withholding Tax information.
- Selected firm must provide copies of valid work permits for each employee to be assigned at CUC.
- Selected firm and all subcontractors must provide documents as proof that the firm is covering its employees under the Workman's Compensation program and is paying its employees pay wage rates not less than the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The selected firm will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- Quotation for said services shall be valid for 60 days from date of submittal.
- This Scope of Work shall become "Exhibit A" of the Ground Maintenance Contract.

All inquiries must be submitted no later than Monday, March 1, 2010, 10:OO AM. in writing to Manuel B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email to msablan@cucgov.net and Almondo Santos, Power Generation Manager at pwrgen@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR, Legal Counsel
/s/ABE UTU MALAE, Assistant Executive Director for Operation
/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA, Executive Director

ASIAN BRIEFS

India to test missile with 3,100-mile range

NEW DELHI (AP)—India will test a new nuclear-capable missile with a range of more than 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles) in a year's time, the country's top military scientist said Wednesday. India's current longest-range missile is the Agni-III missile with a range of 3,000 kilometers (1,900 miles), which its military test-fired on Sunday. That missile is already capable of reaching targets not only across historic rival, Pakistan, but also major cities in China and the Middle East. V.K. Saraswat, India's chief military scientist, said the new missile, Agni-V, would be a land-based system with a range of over 5,000 kilometers (3,100 miles).

Marines test Taliban defenses before Afghan attack

NEAR MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Marines fired smoke rounds Wednesday and armored vehicles maneuvered close to Taliban positions to test insurgent defenses ahead of an anticipated attack on the biggest militant-controlled town in southern Afghanistan. A NATO spokesman in Brussels called on Taliban militants holding Marjah to surrender. But a Taliban spokesman boasted that the militants were prepared to "sacrifice their lives" to defend the town against the biggest NATO-Afghan offensive of the eight-year war. The date for the main attack by thousands of Marines and Afghan soldiers has not been announced for security reasons. However, preparations have accelerated in recent days, and it appeared the assault would come soon.

Soldier detained over teen's death in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A soldier suspected of involvement in the shooting death of a teenager in Indian-controlled Kashmir was detained after the killing triggered massive anti-India protests across the region, an official said Wednesday. The victim's father, however, said the soldier had been made a scapegoat. Police officer Farooq Ahmed said the Border Security Force handed over one of its soldiers, Lakhvinder Kumar, to police after internal inquiries found he may have been involved in Friday's death. "Now we'll proceed with further investigations," Ahmed told The Associated Press.

World

IAEA suggests Iran's new enrichment modest

VIENNA (AP)—Iran expects to produce its first batch of higher enriched uranium in a few days but its initial effort is modest, using only a small amount of feedstock and a fraction of its capacities, according to a confidential document shared Wednesday with The Associated Press.

But the document also indicated that Iran was keeping silent on whether or not it would ramp up production, which would bring it closer to the ability to produce the fissile core of nuclear weapons.

■■■

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's state TV is showing thousands of pro-government demonstrators rallying to mark the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The opposition has vowed to stage counter demonstrations, but eye-witnesses say police have deployed hundreds of forces in central Tehran to confront them.

Opposition members went on roof tops late Wednesday and shouted "God is greatest" in protest—echoing similar cries after the disputed June election as well as anti-shah protests more than three decades ago.

Since the election that brought President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power, opposition protesters have repeatedly taken to the streets.

Thursday's pro-government rallies in Tehran will end at Azadi square, where the president will address the crowd.

■■■

The internal International Atomic Energy Agency document was significant in being the first glimpse at Iran's plan to enrich uranium to 20 percent that did not rely on statements from Iranian officials.

Iran says it wants to enrich only up to that grade—substantially below the 90 percent plus level used in the fissile core of nuclear warheads—as a part of a plan to fuel its research reactor that provides medical isotopes to hundreds of thousands of Iranians undergoing cancer treatment.

But the West says Tehran is not capable of turning the material into the fuel rods needed by the reactor. Instead it fears that Iran wants to enrich the uranium to make nuclear weapons.

Iran denies such aspirations. But its move is viewed with concern internationally because it would create material that could then be processed into weapons-grade uranium more quickly and with less effort than Iran's present stockpile of 3.5 percent enriched uranium.

On Wednesday, Iranian Vice President Ali Akhbar Salehi said the process of higher enrichment was going smoothly, a day after Iranian officials announced a start of the operation, but gave no details on the scope of the new activities.

Haiti gives conflicting counts for quake deaths

TITANYEN, Haiti (AP)—Haiti issued wildly conflicting death tolls for the Jan. 12 earthquake on Wednesday, adding to confusion about how many people actually died—and to suspicion that nobody really knows.

A day after Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue raised the official death toll to 230,000, her office put out a statement quoting President Rene Preval as saying 270,000 bodies had been hastily buried by the government following the earthquake.

A press officer withdrew the statement, saying there was an error, but re-issued it within minutes. Later Wednesday, the ministry said that due to a typo, the number should have read 170,000.

Even that didn't clear things up. In the late afternoon, Preval and Lassegue appeared together at the government's temporary headquarters.

Preval, speaking English, told journalists that the number was 170,000, apparently referring to the number of bodies contained in mass graves.

Lassegue interrupted him in French, giving a number lower than she had given the previous day: "No, no, the official number is 210,000."

Iraq orders former Blackwater security guards out

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq has ordered hundreds of private security guards linked to Blackwater Worldwide to leave the country within seven days or face possible arrest on visa violations, the interior minister said Wednesday.

The order comes in the wake of a U.S. judge's dismissal of criminal charges against five Blackwater guards who were accused in the September 2007 shooting deaths of 17 Iraqis in Baghdad.

It applies to about 250 security contractors who worked for Blackwater in Iraq at the time of the incident, Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani told The Associated Press.

Some of the guards now work for other security firms in Iraq, while others work for a Blackwater subsidiary, al-Bolani said. He said all "concerned parties" were notified of the order three days ago and now have four days left before they must leave. He did not name the companies.

Blackwater security contractors were protecting U.S. diplomats when the guards opened fire in Nisoor Square, a busy Baghdad intersection, on Sept. 16, 2007. Seventeen people were killed, including women and children, in a shooting that inflamed anti-American sentiment in Iraq.

"We want to turn the page," al-Bolani said. "It was a painful experience, and we would like to go forward."

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPL-061

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) HP DESIGN JET T1120 HD MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
ACTING SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-TDEQ-057

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDEQ-060

OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY-ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FAX REQUEST TO (670) 664-1515.

THIS IS A FEDERALY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFRENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public and all Garapan Street Market vendors that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs - Garapan Street Market will be closed on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

The purpose of closing on the stated date is to have all vendors update required permits and documents in compliance with conducting business at the Garapan Street Market site.

Garapan Street Market will resume on February 18, 2010 for vendors that have met the deadline for submission of requirements.

Should you need more information, please call us at 664-2574 or 664-2576.

Thank you.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (especially the Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY MARCH 08, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

3rd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991

The Trustor has defaulted on payment on the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC SS 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-Eight Thousand Thirty and 00/100 ($88,030.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2010.

BY: /S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director NMHC

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NZ teen kidnaps puppy to save it from euthanasia

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand teenager faced legal action after he stole his own injured puppy from a clinic to save it from euthanasia when the family couldn't afford expensive surgery after it was hit by a car. The story appears headed for a happy ending, however. The public rallied to the plight of Bronson Stewart and 5-month-old puppy Buck on Wednesday, raising money to save the dog by paying the bill, local media reported. After Buck was hit by a car two weeks ago neither Stewart, 19, nor his father Kevin could afford the 2,500 New Zealand dollars ($1,730) for the puppy's broken leg to be pinned back together or the $555 (NZ$800) for the leg to be amputated.

Man allegedly steals ambulance with patient inside

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Authorities say a drunken man stole an ambulance from a Wisconsin ski area with the patient and paramedics still inside. The Dane County Sheriff's Department says emergency responders were treating a patient in the back of the ambulance at the Tyrol Basin Ski and Snowboard Area in Mount Horeb on Monday night. They say a 24-year-old Illinois man got into the vehicle and drove it around the parking lot. The sheriff's department says deputies arrested the man. But it is unclear how he was stopped. Fitch-Rona Medical Service Deputy Chief Dale Dow says the ambulance's emergency brake was on and paramedics were still in the back when the man got inside. He says he doesn't know what happened after that.

Complaint claims mayor uses mute button on speakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County prosecutors are looking into a complaint that the mayor of Carson cuts off public speakers at City Council meetings if he doesn't like what they're saying. David Demerjian of the district attorney's office said the complaint claims that Mayor Jim Dear hits the mute button on speakers before the three-minute time limit is up. Demerjian called it a unique complaint and said he's started an inquiry—not a criminal investigation. However, if the mayor is found to have violated the state's open meetings law, Demerjian said his office will write the mayor and ask him to stop of seek a court order. Dear denied any wrongdoing and said the complaint comes from a political gadfly.

NY boy, 11, faces charges over pencil attack

SAUQUOIT, N.Y. (AP)—An 11-year-old boy faces assault and weapon charges for trying to stab a classmate with a pencil over a math problem. Police in New Hartford, 80 miles west of Albany, said the boy was mad because a classmate kept trying to help him in math class on Monday. When the would-be helper wouldn't back off, police said the boy lashed out with a sharp pencil and inflicted a scratch treated by the school nurse.

Officer Shane Yoxall, working as a resource officer at the Sauquoit Valley Middle School, investigated.

Now that's cold! NYC terrier mugged

NEW YORK (AP)—A Brooklyn woman said a mugger stole a doggie coat right off the back of her mild-mannered terrier. Donna McPherson said she tied up Lexie, her 10-year-old Westie, outside a Park Slope supermarket "for two minutes" while she bought milk. She heard a "funny bark." When McPherson went outside, she found the little white dog shivering.

Science & Technology

Google's e-mail gets social in Facebook face-off

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. opened a new social hub in its e-mail service on Tuesday, leaving little doubt that the Internet search leader is girding for a face-off with Facebook.

The new Gmail channel, called Google Buzz, includes many of the features that have turned Facebook into the Web's top spot for fraternizing with friends and family.

It comes less than a week after Facebook made changes of its own. Among other things, Facebook now shows a list of friends available for chatting on the left side of the page, similar to where Gmail now displays its chat feature.

The Google Buzz features won't reach all of Gmail's estimated 176 million users worldwide for several more days. A link to the service will appear on the top left of the page, in a prominent position just under Gmail's inbox tab.

Like Facebook, Google Buzz will let Gmail users post updates about what they are doing or thinking and share those with the rest of the world or with only a select group of people. Gmail users also will be able to track other people's updates and instantly comment on them for everyone else in the social circle to see.

AP

In this screen shot provided by Google Inc., the company's new "Google Buzz" feature for Gmail is shown.

And, just like Facebook, Google Buzz can serve as a showcase for video, photos and Web links to interesting stories.

Google Buzz also shows similarities with Twitter, an online communications tool that broadcasts messages of up to 140 characters. A mobile phone application of Google Buzz is particularly Twitter-like: It allows people to see the public updates of other people in the same vicinity.

Some of Google Buzz's features mirror social tools already available in instant-messaging services and other Web-based e-mail, including Yahoo Inc.'s and Microsoft Corp.'s. Google Chat, which is incorporated into Gmail, already has limited ability to display status updates. Google launched a social network called Orkut six years ago, just a few weeks before Facebook began in a Harvard dorm room, but Orkut has gained little traction outside of Brazil. Meanwhile, Facebook has emerged as a cultural phenomenon with more than 400 million users worldwide.

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are availale at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

February 16th - Tuesday - 8 am
- Mount Carmel School
- Saipan Community School

February 17th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Calvary Christian Academy
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Saipan International School

February 19th - Friday - 8 am
- Chacha Junior High School
- Kagman High School

February 23rd - Tuesday - 8 am
- Marianas High School

February 24th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Saipan Southern High School
- Ladera International School

February 25th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Hopwood Junior High School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger and for students and staff who have not received it.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

No consent form, No Vaccine!

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

Life & Style

Counting to 10 is complicated for Oscar's best pic

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—It used to be that picking a best-picture Oscar winner was as easy as one, two, three.

Academy members would open their ballots, choose a favorite, and the nominee with the most votes would take home the top Academy Award.

Not this year. It turns out that counting to 10, as in this year's expanded list of 10 best-picture nominees, is a lot more complicated.

Final Oscar ballots went out Wednesday to the 5,777 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Members were asked to mark their singular favorite in each category—except best picture, where they were to rank the 10 nominated films according to their preference. Their favorite film gets a one, their second favorite a two and so on.

Accountants at PricewaterhouseCoopers, the firm that has tallied Oscar votes for the past 76 years, then employ an old-school method to determine support for the films in the running. The system is also used in some municipal elections nationwide and to determine Oscar nominees each year.

Here's how it works: Rick Rosas and Brad Oltmanns, partners at PricewaterhouseCoopers, meet in a windowless room in a secret location with the completed Oscar ballots.

They separate the paper ballots into stacks based on the film listed in first place on each one. So, there will be a stack of ballots listing "Avatar" in the first position, another for those ranking "The Hurt Locker" first, another for those listing "Up in the Air" as their first choice, and so on.

The smallest stack will belong to the film with the fewest first-place votes. That movie is then eliminated from contention, and its votes are redistributed among the remaining stacks according to the film listed in second place on each of those ballots. Still with me?

"It will effectively be an instant-runoff type election," Rosas said, "where we'll sort through the voters' first preferences, and then we'll be looking to determine which film has a 50 percent-plus-one vote majority preference."

Um, yeah.

Rosas and Oltmanns will keep redistributing votes from films with less support to those with more support until one film collects something like 2,889 ballots (if all 5,777 ballots are completed and returned)—or 50 percent of the electorate, plus one—in its stack. It could take several rounds of redistribution to reach that number, and the nominee that does will be the best picture winner.

It may be complicated to understand, but Oltmanns said it's a worthwhile system when picking one winner from 10 nominees. Otherwise a film could win the top prize with just 11 or 12 percent of the overall vote.

"It might be unlikely, but mathematically it would be possible," he said. "When you have 10 contenders for one particular award, the advantage of the preferential balloting system is it really gauges the depth of support among all the people that are voting, or most of the people that are voting."

And forget what you may have heard about a film with more second-place votes winning the best picture Oscar, Rosas said.

"The key is to have the highest number of first-place votes. That will always be the case, because that gives you the highest probability of winning," he said. "Voters' second- or third-place preference or choice may never come into play, depending on what their first was."

The counting begins after 5 p.m. March 2, when all ballots are due back to PricewaterhouseCoopers. Luckily, all we have to do is watch when the results are revealed at the Academy Awards on March 7.

AP

PricewaterhouseCoopers partners Rick Rosas, right, and Brad Oltmanns wheel final Oscar ballots for 82nd Academy Awards through the lobby of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

Winter weather plays havoc with B'way box office

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a time-honored tradition, the show must go on.

But on Broadway, snow or even merely the report of blustery winter weather can affect how plays and musicals do at the box office.

"People in Manhattan who are shrewd can probably get into anything they want," Howard Sherman, executive director of the American Theatre Wing, said Wednesday as more than flurries swirled through Times Square.

Theater producers—by tweeting, on Facebook and with e-mail blasts—reacted quickly to news of inclement weather on what is a two-performance day for most shows.

"It's kind of like a bonus day (for theatergoers)," said Sue Frost, a producer of "Memphis."

"You've got time on your hands you didn't know you had. What better thing to do than slush down the street and go see a Broadway show."

Many offered discount tickets to fill empty seats. "Wicked" had a $61.25 "snow-day" special. There were $31.50 tickets at "Mamma Mia!" "Hair" trumpeted $40 tickets for students with a valid ID. "Memphis" posted a student-rush ticket for $26.50, and "Billy Elliot" had a $31.50 student rush. Manhattan Theatre Club offered what it called "select" seats at $38 each.

And the Roundabout Theatre Company expanded its allotment of $21.50 rush tickets (for students and non-students alike) to include 100 additional seats for each performance of its revival of "Present Laughter."

Last Saturday's monster snow storm that buried Washington affected theater in New York, even though the snow never really amounted to much in Manhattan or in most of its suburbs, despite advance reports on television news.

Weekly grosses slipped for most shows (in some cases a lot), primarily because of a miserable business Saturday, the most popular day for theatergoing.

AP

John Sarria with S. L Green moves snow from Shubert Alley in New York's Broadway theater district, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
ROBERTO LORICA BOE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROBERTO LORICA BOE, Petitioner, v. MARIA THERESA BLAZA BOE Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0548 ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD (7 CMC §1301)

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: **MARIA THERESA BLAZA BOE**

PURSANT TO 7 CMC § 1301, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to make your appearance or file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint filed with the Commonwealth Superior Court, within 30 days from the service date. You are instructed to make your appearance before the Clerk of Courts or mail a copy of your answer to the Complaint to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. You may obtain a copy of the Complaint by contacting Petitioner's counsel or record.

If you choose to file an answer, your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to make your appearance or file an answer in accordance with this Order To Appear or Plead, a default judgment will be entered against you for the relief of the Complaint.

A copy of this Order is to be published at a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for two consecutive weeks. In addition, a copy of this Order shall be posted in two (2) conspicuous places for a period of not less than two weeks.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v-. ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFFENDANTS, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER AND LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 23rd day of January, 2010.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PERSONAL FINANCE CENTER, Plaintiff, -v-. OSCAR M. MASGA and MARIA B. MASGA, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0440 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 8, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 010 K 230, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K01, the original of which was recorded August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2909, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and

Tract No. 22698-2 (formerly part of original Tract No. 22697, H-84), situated in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2106/87, the original of which was recorded on June 23, 1987, as Document No. 87-2674 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 19,2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of January 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. RICARDO R. DADO and DELIA S. DADO, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 09-0466-CV AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT RICARDO R. DADO :

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; and in case of failure to do so, a default may be rendered against you according to the demand of the Complaint for Foreclosure, which have been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 17th day of December, 2009.

/s/Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D. Torres Building, Garapan
P. O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 • Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., Plaintiff, vs. HENRY M. SABLAN and BERNADITA P. SABLAN, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0120 NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, by virtue of a Default Judgment and Order entered on October 23, 2009, in favor of Plaintiff, Isla Financial Services, Inc., against Defendants, Henry M. Sablan and Bernadita P. Sablan, and the Court ordering a public sale, pursuant to 2 CMC Section 4537 (e), of Defendants mortgaged right, title, interest and claim in and to real property and all improvements thereon situated in San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described as follows:

Real property situated in Finasisu, Saipan Described as Tract 22507-26

Now known as:

Tract 22507New-1, (part of Tract 22507New, part of Tract 22507-26 and a portion of the former Tract 22507-21, part of Tract 22507-R2, part of Tract 22507-R1, part of original Tract 22507, AH 250), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2012/09, the original of which was recorded January 7, 2009 as Document No. 09-0011 at Commonwealth Recorders, Saipan.

The undersigned will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, Defendants right, title, and interest in and to the above-described property, for cash, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Friday, February 26, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of the D. Torres Building in Garapan, Saipan.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 1:00 p.m.

2. **Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure of the bidder to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by a bidder.

3. **Warranties and Covenants.** The real property listed in this Notice will be sold in its current condition **"as-is-where-is"** as of the date of sale. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title of fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the real property listed, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof. The real property listed is being sold subject to all existing covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, exploration rights, easements, rights of way, assessments, zoning, and all other land use restrictions. And, the real property listed is being sold subject to the undersigned=s acceptance of any bid.

4. **Conduct of Sale.**
   a. RESERVE. The sale may be held without reserve, meaning a minimum price. Any reserve price on the real property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
   b. BIDS. The auction will be open, oral and verbal. Advance bids for the real property listed in this Notice may be submitted in writing in advance of the auction date and time and delivered to **Auctioneer, Micheline W. Brel, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Garapan, Saipan.** The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of advance bids. The highest advance bid will be the opening bid. The amount of increment to increase bids and the decision as to naming who is the high bidder will be at the direction and sole discretion of the undersigned. The highest bid made at the auction, and accepted by the undersigned, shall be considered an agreement by the bidder to buy the real property and that bid amount shall be final.
   c. DISPUTES. The undersigned may resubmit any real property listed in this Notice, if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
   d. DEPOSIT. Immediately after a sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash, certified check, Cashiers Check or Money Order. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of the **Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger,** within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of sale, in cash or cash equivalent. If the full balance of 90% is not paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and may again offer for sale the above listed real property.
   e. MEMORANDUM. If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the listed real property is struck at auction. All sales are final and there are no refunds.

5. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the CNMI governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties: (1) To withdraw the real property listed in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such real property is accepted; (2) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the real property is struck off; (3) To offer the real property listed in any order it may choose; and (4) To reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason. The exercise of any of these four rights and duties will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.

6. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when Court approval is granted or rejected.

7. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 9th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Micheline W. Brel
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 505710, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8064, 287-6424
Fax: 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

DeGeneres judges herself as honest in 'Idol' debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is glad that her "American Idol" debut drew big ratings and high praise from the show's creator, media mogul Simon Fuller. But the real test, she says, was judging herself.

She decided she didn't let the contestants down, DeGeneres said Wednesday, the day after she watched the broadcast of her first "Idol" episode.

"I was honest with them (the singers). I was concerned going into it I would be tiptoeing around too much, but I wasn't," DeGeneres said.

Fellow judge Kara DioGuardi told a teleconference Wednesday, before that evening's "American Idol" episode on Fox, that DeGeneres did "an incredible job for the first time here."

Fans had been divided over how the comedian and talk show host would do in assessing vocal talent, but DioGuardi said DeGeneres proved herself able—and was kind as well as candid.

DeGeneres received a post-show flood of congratulatory Twitter messages and calls from friends and celebrities, including one from Fuller, who founded the TV franchise in Britain with "Pop Idol." He pronounced himself "really, really happy," she said.

She also got a rave review from her wife, Portia de Rossi ("Well, she loves me no matter what," DeGeneres conceded).

For DeGeneres, "Idol" is another milestone in a career that includes her Emmy-winning daytime talk show, a deal with CoverGirl makeup, and her 1990s sitcom "Ellen," the first on prime-time network TV to have an openly gay lead.

"American Idol," which has long reigned as TV's No. 1 series but has seen viewership slip, got a welcome ninth-season ratings boost with her on board.

Viewership was up by double-digits over last Tuesday's episode among total viewers (12 percent) and the advertiser-favored young adult audience (10 percent), according to preliminary Nielsen Co. figures. Next to the season premiere, DeGeneres' first show was the second-highest rated of the season among both groups of viewers.

Ratings also rose compared to last season's first Hollywood week episode, up by 4 percent among total viewers, at least 1 percent among young adults and by 8 percent among teenagers.

The last figure is significant given that "Idol" has seen an inevitable ratings slide as it ages and must attract new and younger viewers to hold or reverse course.

Although the quick-witted DeGeneres was expected to be a match acerbic Simon Cowell, there was a lack of on-air fireworks between the new colleagues Tuesday. She teased him about his planned departure—"So this is it, huh? I come on, you leave"—and he teasingly called her a "sadist" when she toyed with contestants about their fate.

In an interview Wednesday, DeGeneres said the Hollywood auditions, in which 181 contestants will be narrowed down to 24 semifinalists, have to be tightly focused on the singers and don't have room for extensive banter among the judges.

That's not to say all was smooth, or will be, as the show moves ahead, especially when it shifts to live episodes.

"Everyone is anxious to see how Simon and I are going to be together and, you know, I am too," DeGeneres said. "I know how we were for Hollywood week, and I know there were good days and bad days. But I don't know how we're going to be on live TV. That's going to be an interesting thing."

She usually agreed with Cowell's judgment when she watched the show as a fan in seasons past, and was often entertained. But she said it's important to remember that "someone's passion" is at stake each time a contestant performs.

Cowell "is funny, but he's also funny in a way that disregards anyone's feelings. ... That doesn't feel good to me because I think there's a better way to tell someone that that wasn't good," she said.

DioGuardi, who is in her second year as an "Idol" judge, dismissed the idea of tension on the set between DeGeneres and Cowell. "I think you have to take any rumor you hear about 'American Idol' with a grain of salt. They're usually not true," DioGuardi said. "Last year, it was Kara and Paula fighting, hate each other. ... These things are just ridiculous."

The judges are there to "do one thing, that's to find the greatest contestant, `American Idol' winner, we can find. That's what the focus is. I know Ellen and Simon both take that seriously," she said.

DeGeneres replaced Paula Abdul, who had judged "Idol" since it debuted in 2002 and left amid contract negotiations after the eighth season ended last year.

AP

In this undated publicity image released by Fox, "American Idol" judges, from left, Simon Cowell, Ellen DeGeneres, Kara DioGuardi and Randy Jackson are shown.

Former Michael Jackson doctor back in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The doctor facing a manslaughter charge in singer Michael Jackson's death has returned to Nevada to resume his medical practice and await trial, his representatives said Wednesday.

Dr. Conrad Murray was in Las Vegas making arrangements to work from another physician's office pending an April 5 evidentiary hearing in Los Angeles, said Miranda Sevcik, spokeswoman for Murray and his lawyer, Edward Chernoff.

Chernoff vowed in a Web posting that Murray "is going to keep practicing medicine."

"We're not sharing the location because the doctor's primary concern is for his patients' privacy," Sevcik said from Houston.

Murray moved his practice, Global Cardiology Associates, out of a Las Vegas office building in August, said Mary Russell, property manager for the building across Flamingo Road from Desert Springs Hospital.

Murray, a 56-year-old cardiologist, also continues to operate the medical practice in Houston that he resumed in November, Chernoff said.

Murray is licensed to practice medicine in Nevada, Texas and California, although the California Medical Board is preparing to seek removal of his license there.

The Nevada Board of Medical Examiners has no history of disciplinary action against Murray, who obtained a Nevada medical license in 1999, said Douglas Cooper, interim board executive. Murray's license is set to expire June 30, 2011.

Cooper said he could not disclose if any new investigations involving Murray were under way.

"He has an active license in the state of Nevada," Cooper said.

Murray pleaded not guilty Monday in Los Angeles to an involuntary manslaughter charge carrying the possibility of up to four years in prison.

Cooper said Nevada authorities were aware that as a condition of Murray's release on $75,000 bail, a judge in Los Angeles barred him from administering any anesthetic agent, specifically the drug propofol.

The Los Angeles coroner cited propofol as the cause of Jackson's death, with other drugs as contributing factors.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz also ordered Murray to surrender his passport, after a prosecutor suggested he might flee to his native Grenada or to Trinidad, where he has a child.

Murray was with Jackson when the 50-year-old pop singer died June 25 in a rented Bel Air mansion. Murray had been hired to look after Jackson's health during a comeback tour. He told police he gave Jackson propofol and other sedatives to help him sleep.

Chernoff has said nothing Murray gave Jackson should have killed him.

AP

Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson's doctor, left, looks on as his attorney Ed Chernoff speaks during his arraignment at the Los Angeles Superior Court on charges of involuntary manslaughter in the singer's death in Los Angeles on Monday, Feb. 8, 2010.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

NOTICE

Reconnection Charge for Water Service

(Wednesday, February 10, 2010) **– The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) hereby announces that effective immediately, a $60 re-connection charge for water service will be assessed, pursuant to the CUC Water Services Regulations §50-30-740 (Restoration of Service) and §50-30-505(c).**

If a customer's electric and water services are both disconnected, one re-connection charge of $60 will be waived if both electric and water services are settled for re-connection on the same day.

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

`Idol' group audition turns into daddy drama

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "American Idol" group auditions proved to be a drama of two dads.

When Wednesday's episode had ended, Michael Lynche, known as "Big Mike," was the proud father of a newborn baby girl and had made it into the next round of the singing contest.

But Seth Rollins of Lakeland, Fla., who had hoped to make a better life for his autistic son and who performed with Lynche and two others contestants, was cut by the judges.

Lynche, of Astoria, N.Y., missed out on being at his wife's side as she delivered their daughter and instead monitored the birth by phone.

"Hi, baby girl," he heard his wife say, then dropped his head into his arms. With his fellow group members standing by, he turned back to the competition.

"Still got work to do," the new father said.

Lynche ended up among the 71 contestants moving on to the next round, out of 96 that started the night. A number of those cut left in tears.

"This was a dream, you know, and I was really hoping it would come true," said ousted Mark La Briola.

New judge Ellen DeGeneres and Simon Cowell, who had played nicely on Tuesday's show, had a brief clash of personalities Wednesday.

When a contestant complained vaguely of "hardship," DeGeneres helpfully tried to explain by explaining that a member of the singer's group had quit abruptly before their audition.

"That happens in life. It's not a hardship. It's rubbish," Cowell replied tartly, in familiar fashion.

There were a few of the contestant meltdowns and tantrums that marked group performances of seasons past, with one group alleging another swiped their a cappella approach to Lady GaGa's "Bad Romance."

Both groups advanced to the next round, although DeGeneres described the accusers' stage outfits as "surreal."

Otherwise, the groups mostly worked together smoothly in "Hollywood Week," with a big majority of contestants winning the chance to sing and be judged again as the field is narrowed to 24 semifinalists.

In a hint of things to come, judge Kara DioGuardi told stunned teenager Katie Stevens of Boston that she was "the potential winner."

Crab boat captain who loved challenges dies at 53

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A crab boat captain who dodged danger for decades in the Bering Sea succumbed to a more common American ailment.

Phil Harris, 53, made famous on a Discovery Channel reality show, the "Deadliest Catch," died Tuesday. Harris suffered a stroke last month at a remote Alaska port and was flown to Anchorage for treatment.

Family members had reported he was making progress. His sons, Josh and Jake Harris, who accompanied their father on fishing trips aboard the Cornelia Marie, released a statement that Harris had always been a fighter and continued to be until the end.

Phil Harris acknowledged that steering a boat into some of the planet's most hostile waters was not for everyone.

"You've got to be a little bit twisted to do this job," he said on the eve of one departure.

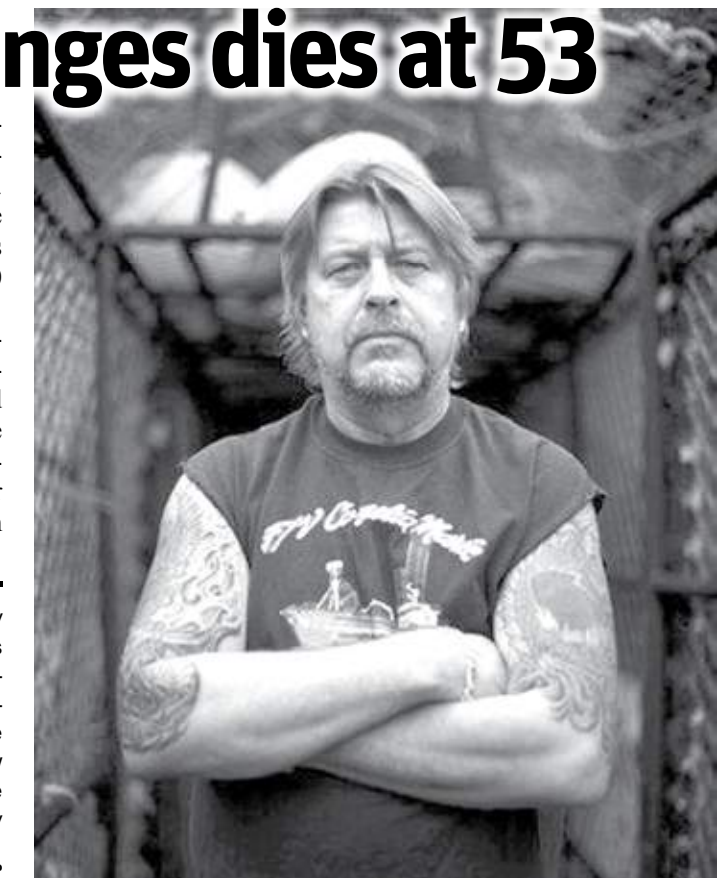
The raspy-voiced skipper, often filmed with a cigarette in hand, suffered cracked or broken ribs in the show's fourth season when a storm tossed him out of bed and onto the sharp table corner.

He left the Cornelia Marie for treatment and was recorded recuperating in Seattle, spitting up blood, the result of a blood clot that had passed through his heart. He wistfully noted he might have to find something else to do.

"The bad part of it is, I don't know if my fishing career is over, and that's going to be a devastating thing for me if it is," he said on camera.

Harris was back on the Cornelia Marie last month when he suffered a stroke Jan. 29 in port at St. Paul Island, the largest of the five islands in the Pribilofs, 300 miles off Alaska's west coast and 750 miles west of Anchorage.

Commercial fishing statistically remains the most hazardous occupation in America, said Jerry Dzugan, director of the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association and a former halibut and salmon fisherman in Alaska's Panhandle.



This undated photo provided by the Discovery Channel shows Capt. Phil Harris. Harris, the fishing boat captain whose adventures off the Alaska coast were captured on the television show "Deadliest Catch", has died, the Discovery Channel said Tuesday night Feb. 9, 2010.

AP

Jillian Michaels sued over diet supplement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jillian Michaels has been sued for alleged false advertising by a woman who claims she was duped into buying a diet supplement endorsed by the celebrity trainer.

Christie Christensen of Lake Elsinore, Calif., is seeking class-action status for the case she filed Tuesday in Los Angeles. Michaels is a hard-charging, no-nonsense trainer best-known as one of the stars of NBC's hit reality show, "The Biggest Loser."

Christensen's lawsuit claims she bought a product called "Jillian Michaels Maximum Strength Calorie Control" last month and that it has failed to lessen her appetite or cause her to lose weight as advertised.

Michaels' picture and endorsement appear on the packaging, touting her as "America's Toughest Trainer." The product and a Web site advertising include the claim, "Two Capsules Before Main Meals and You Lose Weight ... That's It!"

"Ms. Michaels knows better—taking two pills before eating does not miraculously cause weight loss," the lawsuit states.

The Web site and packaging however note that the statements haven't been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Christensen is also suing Utah-based Basic Research and ThinCare International, which manufacture and market several diet and weight loss products endorsed by Michaels.

ThinCare said in a statement it offers a money-back guarantee for purchasers and expects to win the case. The company also touted touted its products' popularity and testing standards.

"Not only have placebo-controlled, double-blind, published clinical studies been conducted on the active calorie-control compound in Jillian Michaels Maximum Strength Calorie Control, but that research was reviewed by some of the leading weight-loss experts in the world before Jillian would put her name on the product," the statement read.

Michaels' publicist, Heidi Krupp, did not return a phone message seeking comment Wednesday.

"Calorie Control" is not among the products that NBC lists for sale on its "Biggest Loser" Web site, which include video games, DVDs and equipment, some bearing Michaels' image. "The Biggest Loser" has been a hit for NBC, often appearing in Nielsen Co.'s Top 20 rankings for prime-time TV programs.

Christensen's suit seeks unspecified damages that are not expected to total more than $5 million. Her filing states she has "struggled with weight loss her entire life" and bought "Calorie Control" because of Michaels' endorsement.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2009 file photo, personal trainer Jillian Michaels speaks at the Women's Conference 2009 Night at the Village at The Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, Calif.

Next 'Spider-Man' movie to be in 3-D

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The new "Spider-Man" plans to swing closer to movie theater audiences.

The next Spidey movie will be filmed in 3-D and is scheduled for release July 3, 2012, Sony Pictures announced Wednesday. The fourth installment is being directed by "(500) Days of Summer" filmmaker Marc Webb following the departure of Sam Raimi and Tobey Maguire, the director and star who worked on the previous three "Spider-Man" films.

Production on the next film, which will focus on a younger version of the superhero, will begin later this year.

TLC's 'American Chopper' reaches end of the road

NEW YORK (AP)—"American Chopper" is riding off into the sunset.

The popular TLC series based on the feuding Teutul family and their custom-built motorcycle business is going off the air after six seasons. TLC said Wednesday that the final episode will air Thursday.

The end isn't a surprise. Paul Teutul and his son, Paul Jr., have frequently fought on the air. The son recently left the New York-based Orange County Choppers to start his own business, and the two are in a court dispute over money.

The network said that "the show has always been about building one-of-a-kind bikes and the drama of running a family business. The Teutuls will always be part of the Discovery family and we congratulate them on a tremendously successful series run."

AP

In this 2009 publicity image released by TLC, The Teutuls, from left, Mikey Teutul, Paul Teutul Sr., and Paul Teutul Jr., from the TLC series, "American Chopper," are shown.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, February 12th through Thursday, February 18th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

The Lightning Thief

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Monday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Throuble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that's the least of his challenges. It's the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Universal Studios resurrects the classic lycanthrope with this tale of an American who experiences an unsettling transformation after returning to his ancestral home in Victorian-era Great Britain and being attacked by a rampaging werewolf. His brother having recently vanished without a trace, haunted nobleman Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to his family estate to investigate. What he discovers upon reuniting with his estranged father (Anthony Hopkins), however, is a destiny far darker than his blackest nightmares.

Valentine's Day

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:50
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Nobody, Nobody But Juan

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

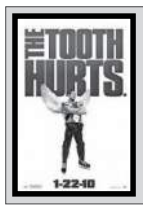
Dolphy, Eddie Garcia
Comedy • Rated NR

From Paris With Love

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers star in the spy thriller From Paris With Love for District B13's helmer Pierre Morel and EuropaCorp. The Luc Besson/Adi Hasak-penned tale revolves around the entwining paths of an American spy and an embassy worker during a tumultuous time in Paris.



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Monday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Tues thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Wife doubts her marriage can survive husband's depressions

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married nine years, but moved to my own apartment two months ago. I'm 35; my husband, "Art," is 51. Our marriage was fine until two years ago, when he became depressed over his job and we started fighting. He didn't want to do anything, including have sex, and he quit his job. I paid the bills until he started a new job, but he became depressed again. Then he started drinking. We talked, we cried and stormed. Art refused counseling and wouldn't stop drinking. Our fights were verbal, but I was afraid if I stayed they'd escalate and I'd be physically hurt. That's when I moved.

Art now has a job he likes. He has cut back on his drinking and is the sweet, loving man I married. He wants to reconcile. He says he was depressed and thinks the difference in our ages excuses the fact that I am sexual and he isn't -- and that I want to go places and do things, but he doesn't.

I am confused. I miss the "good" us. I love my husband and don't want anyone else, but I'm afraid to go back. If I give up my apartment and he gets depressed with his new job, I'll be in a situation I won't be able to get out of. On the one hand, I think we deserve another chance. On the other, I don't want to feel like I'm 100 years old when I'm only 35. Any advice would be appreciated.

CAN'T DECIDE IN OHIO

DEAR CAN'T DECIDE: Agree to go back only after you and your husband have had at least six months of professional couples counseling. The combination of depression, drinking, your age difference and his chronic job dissatisfaction all need to be fully addressed, or your relationship will never be healed.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife is addicted to her cell phone. Whenever we're out together it's impossible to converse with her because she always has one or two text conversations going on.

The first thing I hear in the morning is her phone buzzing, notifying her of an incoming text. The last thing I hear at night is her sending a good-night message to one of her friends. If no texts are coming in, she plays games on her phone even if we're watching TV or if company is over.

I have told her it's making me crazy, but she won't stop. The constant clicking drives me up the wall. I feel as though I have lost my wife to her phone. Am I being overly sensitive? What do I do?

CLICK-CRAZY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CLICK-CRAZY: Your wife's behavior does appear to be obsessive. You need to figure out whether she's using her cell phone to avoid an intimate relationship with you, or whether she really has developed an addiction to the device. Because the "last thing you hear at night" isn't an affectionate comment directed to you, but rather something being "clicked" to a friend -- it may be the former.

To find out if she's addicted, offer her a challenge. Tell her you feel the cell phone is interfering with your relationship. If she denies it, suggest she stop using it. If she can't put it down for an agreed-upon period of time, persuade her in a loving way to admit she needs help. The good news is treatment is available for this kind of compulsive disorder once she has been diagnosed by a mental health professional.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

John Mayer apologizes for *Playboy* interview

NEW YORK (AP)—John Mayer is apologizing for his mouth. The Grammy-winner took to his Twitter page to make amends for his latest inflammatory comments—this time, in the March edition of *Playboy*.

In it, he calls former girlfriend Jessica Simpson "sexual napalm" and says Jennifer Aniston is a technophobe who wishes she could go back to her career prime in 1998. He also uses the N-word.

On Twitter Wednesday afternoon, he apologized for the racial epithet and said he has to stop "trying to be so raw in interviews."

"It started as an attempt to not let the waves of criticism get to me, but it's gotten out of hand and I've created somewhat of a monster," Mayer tweeted. "I wanted to be a blues guitar player. And a singer. And a songwriter. Not a shock jock. I don't have the stomach for it."

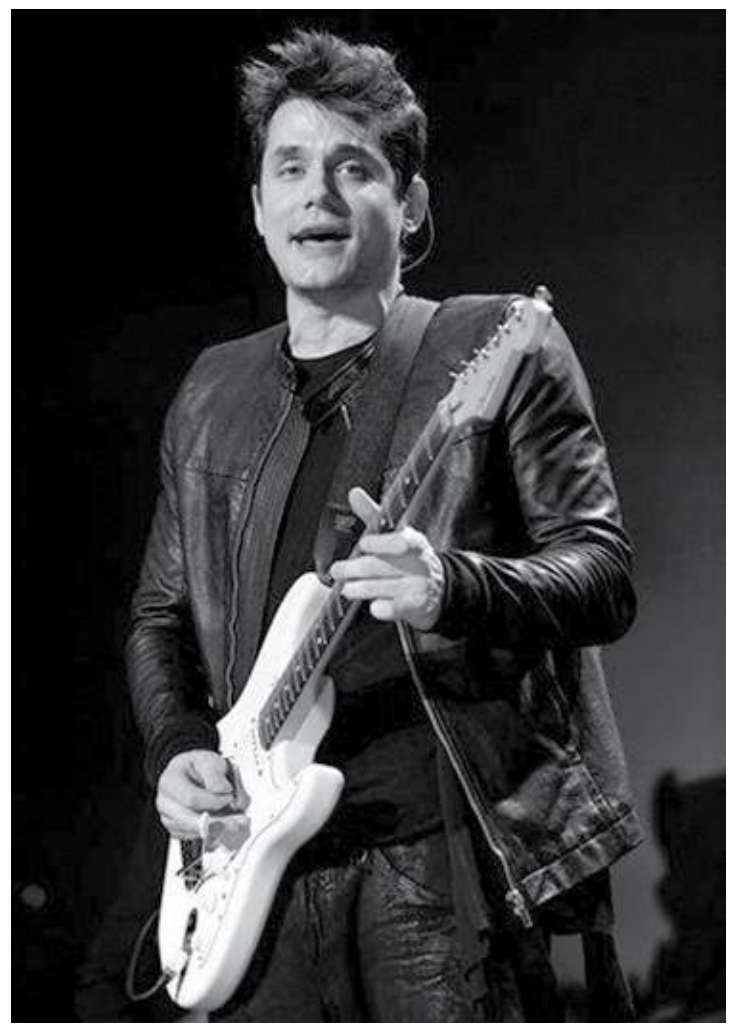
There were plenty who didn't have the stomach for his remarks in *Playboy*, in which he talked about Simpson's sexuality, his problems with Aniston, his love of porn, why he doesn't date black women and being beloved by the black community.

"Someone asked me the other day, 'What does it feel like now to have a hood pass?' And by the way, it's sort of a contradiction in terms, because if you really had a hood pass, you could call it a nigger pass,'" he said, then added: "But I said, 'I can't really have a hood pass. I've never walked into a restaurant, asked for a table and been told, 'We're full.'"

Mayer said he should have never have used the N-word in any context and will never say it again. "And it's such a shame that I did because the point I was trying to make was in the exact opposite spirit of the word itself. It was arrogant of me to think I could intellectualize using it, because I realize that there's no intellectualizing a word that is so emotionally charged," he said.

The racial comments were hardly the only explosive comments in the interview. He said he still loved Aniston, but then noting their age difference (she just turned 41), he said: "I can't change the fact that I need to be 32."

He also said she didn't appreciate new technology: "The brunt of her success came before TMZ and Twitter. I think she's still hoping it goes back to 1998. She saw my involvement in technology as courting distraction. And I always said, 'These are the new rules,'" he said.



AP
In this Dec. 11, 2009 file photo, musician John Mayer performs at the 2009 Z100 Jingle Ball at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Celine Dion coming back to Vegas for 3-year stint

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Celine Dion is returning to the Las Vegas Strip in 2011 to begin a three-year run at Caesars Palace.

The Grammy award-winning singer announced Wednesday she'll return to the 4,300-seat Colosseum, home of her previous show, "A New Day." It grossed more than $400 million and was seen by nearly 3 million fans over five years before closing in December 2007.

The new show begins March 15, 2011, with tickets for the first 54 performances going on sale Friday. Officials say ticket prices will range from $55 to $250 before taxes and fees.

Dion says the new show will feature songs ranging from timeless classics to fan favorites, with a concept incorporating the romance of classic movies.

"It's going to be a very beautiful show, and I think we'll be raising the bar higher than we've ever done before," Dion said in a statement. "There'll be some truly wonderful moments."

The 41-year-old Canadian singer spent a year on an international tour after her previous Las Vegas show ended, and plans to spend the year before her Sin City return with her family.

Dion is the youngest of 14 children in a musical family. She sang publicly for the first time at age 5, and released her first two albums simultaneously when she was 13.

Dion has since sold more than 200 million albums worldwide and won five Grammy awards.

Two songs recorded by Dion have won Academy Awards for best original song, including the title song of "Beauty and the Beast" and "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic."

In a Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007 file photo, Celine Dion walks off stage following the final performance of her show 'A New Day' at Caesar's Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.
AP

Stars brave NYC snow to honor Natasha Richardson

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City snowstorm can't deter Hollywood's brightest stars from supporting Natasha Richardson's favorite charity.

Lady Gaga, Meryl Streep and Sigourney Weaver attended Wednesday's amfAR gala to raise money to fight HIV/AIDS and honor Richardson, who died in a skiing accident last March.

Richardson became a champion for HIV/AIDS research after her father, director Tony Richardson, died of it in 1991.

Brooke Shields was overcome with emotion on the red carpet and struggled to articulate her feelings for her friend, whom she described as a beautiful woman and brilliant mother.

Streep sang an a cappella Irish number. Lady Gaga performed "Future Love" while covered in pearls and white body paint.

Richardson's mother, actress Vanessa Redgrave, described Richardson's advocacy as her life's mission.

AP
Singer Lady Gaga arrives at the amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) benefit gala on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010 in New York.

Bob Dylan's first canvas paintings unveiled in London

LONDON (AP)—A London gallery has opened an art show billed as an exclusive exhibition of Bob Dylan's first paintings on canvas.

The show at the Halcyon Gallery, in London's elegant Mayfair district, features a collection of the musician's paintings based on sketches he made while on the road from 1989 to 1992.

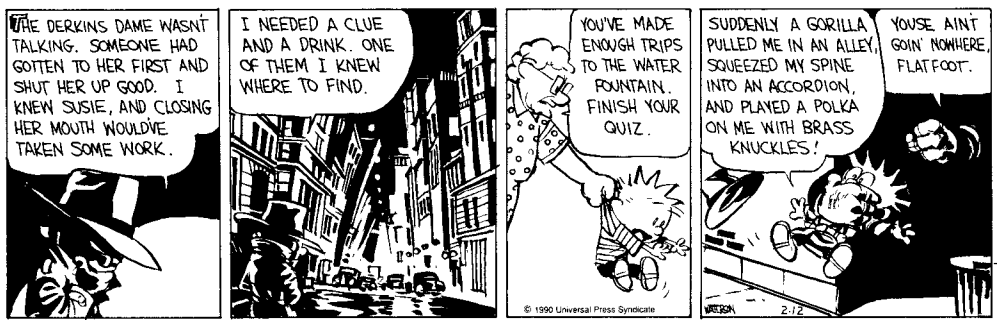
The exhibits at "Bob Dylan on Canvas" are available for sale—with price tags ranging from 95,000 pounds ($148,104) to 450,000 pounds.

Dylan said in promotional material released Wednesday: "I just draw what's interesting to me, and then I paint it." He said: "I'm not trying to make social comment or fulfill somebody's vision and I can find subject matter anywhere. I guess in some way that comes out of the folk world that I came up in."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE DERKINS DAME WASN'T TALKING. SOMEONE HAD GOTTEN TO HER FIRST AND SHUT HER UP GOOD. I KNEW SUSIE, AND CLOSING HER MOUTH WOULDVE TAKEN SOME WORK.
I NEEDED A CLUE AND A DRINK. ONE OF THEM I KNEW WHERE TO FIND.
YOU'VE MADE ENOUGH TRIPS TO THE WATER FOUNTAIN. FINISH YOUR QUIZ.
SUDDENLY A GORILLA PULLED ME IN AN ALLEY, SQUEEZED MY SPINE INTO AN ACCORDION, AND PLAYED A POLKA ON ME WITH BRASS KNUCKLES!
YOUSE AINT GOIN' NOWHERE, FLATFOOT.
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
2-12

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HEY! HERE'S A CLEAN SHIRT!
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'VE NEVER WORN THIS ONE...
SPOOT
JIM DAVIS 2-12
www.garfield.com
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Universal Uclick

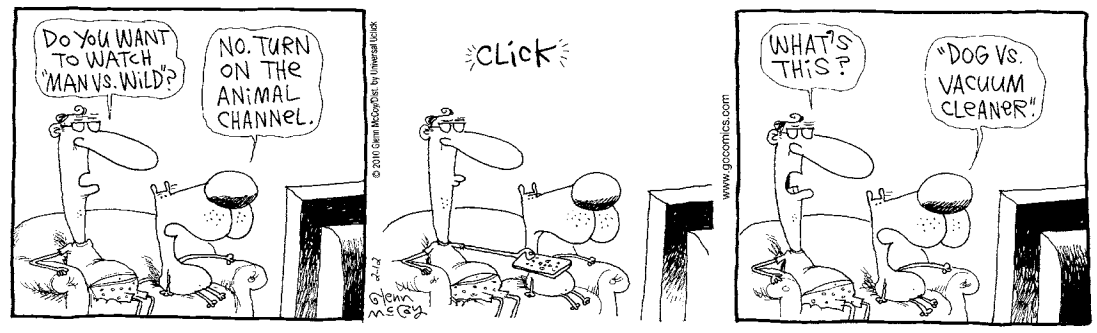
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WELL, OKAY THEN. I AGREE TO SELL YOU THE GORDIE HOWE JERSEY.
SHOULD WE COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION ELECTRONICALLY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DO I "PAYPAL"? WHY WOULD I PAY?
HELLO? HELLO? DON'T HOLD MY SENSE OF HUMOR AGAINST ME!
2-12
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

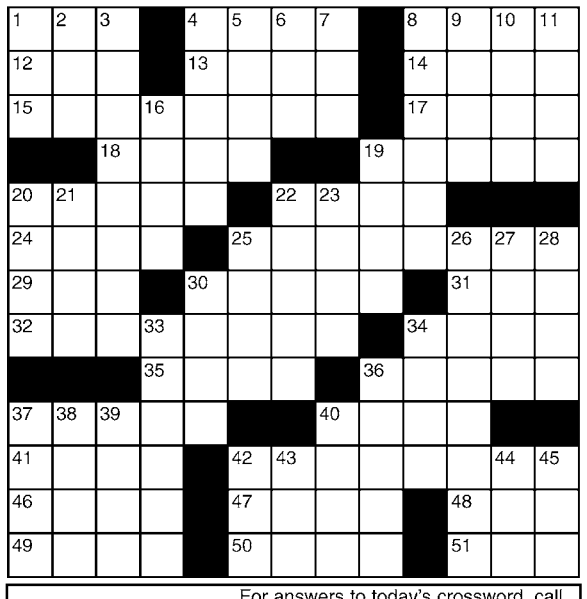
ACROSS
1 Dined
4 Last year's frosh
8 Actor Pitt
12 Hawaiian garland
13 Greek vowel
14 Continental coin
15 Collar style
17 From the beginning
18 Hastens
19 Church music-maker
20 Unyielding
22 Disappear slowly
24 Sported
25 Grand view
29 Past
30 Helicopter blade
31 Ump
32 Almond confection
34 Trucker on the radio
35 Cain's victim
36 Snapshot
37 Canine sounds
40 Burn somewhat
41 Formerly, formerly
42 Long, slender cigar
46 "— Ha'i"
47 Composer Stravinsky
48 Melody
49 Online journal
50 Church seating
51 Allow

DOWN
1 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
2 Golfer's prop
3 Having only two choices
4 Temptress
5 "My bad"
6 Sch. org.
7 — Solo
8 Carrier
9 Ladder part
10 Neighborhood
11 This direction
16 Green land
19 Smell
20 Took to the pool
21 Frat-party garb
22 Deadly
23 In due time
25 Vatican VIP
26 Pertaining to trees
27 Encounter
28 Frizzy hairdo
30 Steakhouse order
33 Pleasingly plump
34 Converse
36 Boscs and Bartletts
37 "Dragnet" star Jack
38 Exam format
39 Norway's capital
40 Winter forecast
42 Spot on a die
43 Time of your life?
44 Falsehood
45 Illustrations

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	O	L	D	■	N	U	T	■	T	R	I	O
E	P	E	E	■	A	S	H	■	H	E	L	D
N	E	A	R	■	V	A	R	■	R	U	L	E
U	N	R	I	P	E	■	E	G	O	S	■	■
■	■	■	V	O	L	L	E	Y	B	A	L	L
M	A	B	E	L	■	Y	A	M	■	B	O	O
A	R	E	S	■	V	I	M	■	B	L	A	B
R	E	D	■	J	O	N	■	S	U	E	D	E
V	A	L	L	E	Y	G	I	R	L	■	■	■
■	■	I	O	T	A	■	N	O	B	O	D	Y
W	A	N	E	■	G	O	D	■	O	G	E	E
A	G	E	S	■	E	W	E	■	U	R	A	L
D	O	N	S	■	R	E	X	■	S	E	L	L

Yesterday's answer 2-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Ricci, 30; Darren Aronofsky, 41; Joanna Kerns, 57; Ray Manzarek, 71

Happy Birthday: This is a great year to stabilize your life, your dreams, hopes and wishes for the future. You will know instinctively what will work for you. More power and authority are heading your way and with it will come responsibilities, giving you the clout and recognition you've been waiting for. A change in direction will give you a new lease on life. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 22, 35, 40, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Favors are highlighted. Take on a physical challenge that will boost your confidence and get you moving. Dealing with children and elders will give you greater insight into subjects that you can use to help you get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You are wasting time if you think someone is going to come along and do things for you. Get the ball rolling and you will attract the help you need. Trust your own skills and aptitude. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Mixing business with pleasure will help you formulate an effective plan for advancement. Your timing is good with regard to work, creativity and getting your plans off the ground. Talks will lead to productivity and a new direction. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Call the shots before someone else tries to. Make it clear that you cannot be pushed or coerced into anything you don't want to do. Once you have established your position, you can follow your own path successfully. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Concentrate on what you need to do to get what you want. You can entice people to follow you by using your charm and finding unique ways to entertain. Recognition and success can be yours if you are industrious. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have just as much to offer as anyone else and can probably do a better job if you put your mind to it. Invest in yourself. A social activity that involves a challenge will allow you to show what you are capable of accomplishing. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Networking and attending social gatherings will bring you in contact with people who can help you get ahead. A partnership can be developed with someone who has common interests and can offer you greater knowledge and experience. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A sudden, unexpected change will help you turn something small that you've been working on into something big. You'll get plenty of interest in what you are doing but be careful not to fall for someone's slick offer. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll face criticism as well as praise. Don't let either influence what you are trying to accomplish. An old friendship can mislead you when you least expect. Try to make your own decisions. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Refuse to let anyone sidetrack you. Avoid get-rich-quick schemes. You operate best when you feel safe and secure, so don't step into a lifestyle that will cause you to live on the edge. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your energetic attitude will create a stir. Your interest in what everyone is doing and the possibilities that exist will lead to new friends and plenty of excitement. You can enhance your financial situation by giving a new look to an old idea. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may get offers that are hard to resist but, if you aren't well-versed in what's being asked of you, don't agree to the conditions. You have to make sure you will be successful before you engage in something that could affect your reputation adversely. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have an outgoing personality and the ability to make things happen. You are sensitive to the needs of others and strive for peace and fair play.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4			7			5	
			1		6			
		6				9		
	9		4		8		2	
5								1
	8		7		9		3	
		9				4		
			9		1			
	1			6			7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	9	6	8	1	7	2	3
1	8	7	2	3	9	4	5	6
2	3	6	7	4	5	8	1	9
3	5	8	9	1	2	6	7	4
6	7	1	4	5	3	2	9	8
9	2	4	8	7	6	5	3	1
7	6	5	1	9	4	3	8	2
4	9	3	5	2	8	1	6	7
8	1	2	3	6	7	9	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TOY WINDMILLS **Solution: 4 letters**

M	C	T	E	S	S	S	A	L	C	W	F	L	A	G
E	A	O	C	L	P	B	G	R	H	L	H	T	L	M
E	R	E	N	E	X	O	E	N	O	A	S	E	O	(R)
T	D	U	R	S	L	A	R	W	I	I	N	U	E	(O)
A	B	A	S	T	T	L	E	P	W	R	N	D	N	(L)
R	O	S	M	I	S	R	O	T	A	T	E	R	L	(L)
O	A	S	V	E	E	R	U	C	T	N	E	V	E	E
C	R	E	T	E	M	L	I	C	U	T	I	S	Y	S
E	D	M	D	N	U	O	R	A	T	T	A	P	H	A
D	L	B	F	I	E	O	H	A	H	I	E	W	S	B
E	I	L	O	H	D	M	P	O	L	E	O	P	A	R
S	U	E	O	S	I	Z	E	S	E	O	I	W	L	I
I	B	L	R	E	P	A	P	V	D	V	O	G	F	G
G	D	E	P	A	H	S	C	H	O	O	L	T	H	H
N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	T	M	M	N	R	U	T

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 2/12

Airstream, Assemble, Axle, Base, Bright, Build, Cardboard, Children, Class, Collect, Construct, Creative, Cute, Decorate, Design, Event, Flag, Flashy, Flower, Handle, Height, Hold, Homemade, Leisure, Model, Mount, Movement, Paper, Pattern, Pivot, Props, Rings, Rods, Roll, Roof, Rotate, Round, Sails, School, Shape, Shine, Size, Spin, Tool, Turn, Twist, Wheel, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Buttons

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total) each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

© 2010 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?

LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

*****SPARKLE*****

Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2008 MAZDA 5

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam Credit Department at telephone number (670) 236-2700 extension 3203, 3204, 3205 or 3206.
Bids will be closed on
Tuesday, February 16, 2010,
at **3:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GUAM
THE PEOPLE'S BANK
Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

Ever thought of a Career in Healthcare?

Are you outgoing, bright and friendly?

You may have what it takes to join the team of Eye Care Assistants at Marianas Eye Institute!

No healthcare experience needed. We will train you!

Requirements:
- US Citizen or IR Status
- High school diploma with a GPA of 3.3 or higher
- Police Clearance
- Previous work experience
- Computer Skills
- Credit Check
- Bright and friendly
- Letter of recommendation from previous employer

Benefits:
- Competitive salary
- Health Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Productivity Bonuses
- Profit Sharing
- Generous Leave Benefits
- Paid Holidays

Great work environment, great benefits!

Apply in person at...

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Garapan, across from 13 Fisherman Monument
No Phone Calls Please

QQ RENT A CAR

Starting as low as... **$25.00**

Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

HELP WANTED
- Looking for Sexy Dancer
  Female
- DJ (Disc Jockey)
- Waitress

IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

CAREFREE 285-6640
LAWN CLEANING SERVICE

Mayflower Steel Co.

Cheaper price on Construction Materials
- Galvanized Pipe
- Tinned Roof Plate

Tel: 670-234-1688 • Cell: 670-8996

FOR HIRE TO SAIPAN, GUAM OR CALIFORNIA
- PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
- SPEECH THERAPIST

Please submit your resume at
MVN MARIANAS VISITING NURSES
"HOME HEATLHCARE SERVICES"
"MEDICARE/MEDICAID CERTIFIED"
Gualo Rai , Middle Road. For more information call 323-6877

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

POI Aviation
A TanHoldings Company

Passenger Service Agent

Our company provides a wide range of ground handling services for both private as well as commercial aircrafts. We are currently in need of a Passenger Service Agent with the following requirements:
- Korean or Nihongo speaking
- Minimum of High School Diploma or GED certificate
- Must possess customer service experience and excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be computer literate and able to handle up to 70 lbs. of baggage
- Must be legally eligible for employment in the United States

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing service and assistance to airline passengers. His/her job will entail handling reservations and passenger check-ins including the examination of passenger documentation to determine destinations and to assign boarding passes.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:
thchr@tanholdings.com

POI is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution:
The joke's on you

FOR LEASE

Lower N.H. barracks and property for long term lease. As Lito house and property for long term lease. If interested please call at 287-7676 for more information.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Oceanview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents.

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI. CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

Position Description: Program Manager
As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most. Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event, the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCP
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, weekly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly Board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software , database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

Condition of Employment and Remuneration:

- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration $25,000.00 to $32,000.00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2010 CNMI Business License
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of February 15, 2010 to: CCA Vice President Bud White, Chairman Selection Committee, at one of the following addresses: bud@whitecoconut.com, FAX: 322-9445 or P.O. Box 5525 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950

P.O. Box 7997 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 236-8728/682-0050 • Fax: (670) 236-8728 • www.ccamarianas.org

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CPA-RFP-001-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for trash collection services for a period of two years. The collection locations and scope of work package is available Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers are encouraged to contact CPA's Terminal Maintenance Department at 237-6500 to make arrangements for a site visit of the trash collection locations.

Interested proposers must submit one original and four copies of the sealed cost proposals for a term of two-year service, a description of proposer's past performance and experience, list of equipment, and proof of insurance in compliance with CPA's insurance requirements. The employees of the winning proposers who will access secured areas at the airport will be required to obtain an airport security badge which includes finger-printing and a criminal background check, which will be at the expense of the proposer.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2010**, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO February 1, 2010
Executive Director

DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program

The Zoning Office has extended the deadline to receive Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

Format of submission

- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

Where and when to submit and questions
Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, February 19th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-004

"SYSTEMS NETWORK HEALTH ASSESSMENT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested to "Perform a Network Health Assessment for the Public School System (PSS)." Detailed information on the scope of work is available beginning February 05, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol HIll, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Joe Torres, E-rate Coordinator via fax to 670.6643791 or e-mail to torresj@pss.cnmi.mp no later than February 26, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 10-004" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Tuesday, March 02, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-005

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (KES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for One (1) Year Campus Security Services for Kagman Elementary School (KES).

The Scope of Work is available beginning February 05, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-005"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **February 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-007

"MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE STAGE FOR KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The Scope of Work and plans are available starting February 12, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $44.00.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Onsite Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. at Kagman Elementary School. Bids submitted from bidders who did not attend this meeting will not be accepted.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Rommel S. Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator, via fax # (670) 664-3715. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: mostales@pss.cnmi.mp.

Bids should be placed in sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-007" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 9:00 A.M., March 10, 2010. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-051

PSS TERMITE TREATMENT – VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the PSS Termite Treatment – Various Schools project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Monday, February 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, starting at Marianas High School, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted by email or in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 15, 2010 to Mr. Chris Fryling, Project Manager, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at chris@n15architects.com, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-051"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, February 22, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time February 22, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 22, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. March 1, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 1, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on February 22, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is **ninety (90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($250.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Bryant-less Lakers beat hot Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The Utah Jazz missed a chance to notch a tenth straight NBA win on Thursday, beaten 96-81 by a Los Angeles Lakers side missing Kobe Bryant.

Pau Gasol had 22 points and 19 rebounds as Los Angeles won its third straight without Bryant, who is sidelined with an ankle injury.

The Lakers got 25 points and 11 rebounds from Lamar Odom. Gasol added five blocks as he and Odom shut down the lane and forced the Jazz outside.

The Lakers broke open the game with a 12-0 run at the end of the first quarter and held a double-figure lead from early in the second period through the end.

Deron Williams had 11 points, 10 assists and was one rebound short of a triple-double for Utah.

Trail Blazers 108, Suns 101

In Phoenix, Portland held off a late surge by undermanned Phoenix, ending the Suns winning trot at five games.

Steve Blake had 20 points and 12 assists, both season highs, for the Blazers, who led by as many as 22 in the third quarter and shot 58 percent—the highest the Suns have allowed this season.

Magic 107, Bulls 87

In Chicago, Dwight Howard had 18 points and 14 rebounds as Orlando pulled away early to down Chicago.

The Magic led 41-17 through the first quarter and didn't have to contend with All-Star point guard Derrick Rose after he left with a bruised hip following a hard foul by Howard in the opening minutes.

Hornets 93, Celtics 85

In New Orleans, Darren Collison scored 13 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to help New Orleans hold on against Boston.

Peja Stojakovic scored 20 for the Hornets.

Paul Pierce scored 15 points for the Celtics, who missed 11 free throws and were unable to protect a 12-point halftime lead.

Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16) goes up for the dunk while teammate Josh Powell (21) looks on during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010, in Salt Lake City. AP

Heat 94, Hawks 76

In Atlanta, Miami took advantage of Atlanta's thin bench to pull away with a 10-0 run in the final period.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 19 points and Dwyane Wade had 18 for the Heat. Miami's bench outscored the Hawks back-ups 45-8.

Josh Smith scored 18 points to lead Atlanta and Joe Johnson had 16 on 7-for-21 shooting.

Raptors 104, 76ers 93

In Toronto, the hosts extended their home winning streak to eight straight, beating Philadelphia.

Chris Bosh had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Jose Calderon converted a go-ahead four-point play as the Raptors topped 100 for the 17th consecutive game.

Louis Williams scored 26 points for the 76ers, who lost their first game in six.

Bobcats 93, Timberwolves 92

In Minneapolis, Nazr Mohammed's dunk with 5.3 seconds left lifted Charlotte past Minnesota.

The Timberwolves outscored the Bobcats 22-13 in the fourth quarter and took a three-point lead with less than a minute to play but could not hold on.

Charlotte's Stephen Jackson tied a season high with four 3-pointers and finished with 33 points, while Mohammed had 21 points and a season-high 20 rebounds.

Al Jefferson scored 19 points for Minnesota.

Kings 103, Pistons 97

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Kevin Martin scored 26 points to lead Sacramento over Detroit.

Beno Udrih added 22 for the Kings, who have won successive road games after taking just three of their first 25 away from home.

Warriors 132, Clippers 102

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry recorded his first triple-double with a career-high 36 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds as Golden State beat Los Angeles to snap a season-high nine-game losing streak.

Anthony Tolliver added a career-high 29 points for the Warriors, who led by as much as 38 while playing without injured leading scorer Monta Ellis.

Bucks 97, Nets 77

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Andrew Bogut scored 22 points to lead Milwaukee over dismal New Jersey.

Ersan Ilyasova added 18 for the Bucks, who won in front of a meager crowd of 1,016 due to a snow storm in the New York region.

9 Olympic gold medalists on US 2010-12 team roster

NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Kobe Bryant joined six others from the reigning Olympic champions who are among 27 players on the U.S. national team roster.

The players chosen Wednesday will be candidates for this summer's world championships and the 2012 Olympics in London.

Also returning from the team that ended the Americans' eight-year gold medal drought in major competitions are: Chris Bosh, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Carmelo Anthony, Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer.

All of the returning players previously told USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo they are interested in coming back after spending all or parts of three years playing for the team that returned the United States to the top of international basketball.

James, Wade and Bosh are all questionable to actually play this summer, though. All three can become free agents and have said their contract situations are their first priority.

The only players not returning from the team that won gold in Beijing are Jason Kidd, who previously said he was retiring from international competition with a perfect record, and Michael Redd and Tayshaun Prince, who have battled injuries this season.

Vonn may test ailing shin in Thursday training run

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Before the Olympics even start, Lindsey Vonn has gone from a favorite to win multiple medals to a question mark of how many, if any, races she'll even ski.

Because of a badly bruised and swollen right shin, Vonn might wind up sitting out a race or two before healing enough to be able to participate in later events, said Thomas Vonn, a former U.S. Olympic skier who acts as a coach and adviser to his wife.

"It is entirely possible that she could race in all five events and be fine. It is possible, for sure. I would be very, very surprised if she didn't race in anything," he said Wednesday.

Her status may become clearer after a training run Thursday, when the two-time reigning overall World Cup champion could test her shin—if the pain isn't too intense.

"Tomorrow I will try and ski for the first time since my crash, hopefully I can do it," Vonn said on her Twitter account Wednesday.

The trip down the hill could provide all the data Vonn needs: Might she ski only part of the course? Can she tolerate the pain enough to even try skiing?

"We honestly don't know how it's going to respond," her husband said. "We potentially could get up there and she could say, 'OK, this works. I can do this.' And it could be not that big of a problem. Or she could get out there with the painkillers and she could say, 'There's just no chance.'"

Vonn, 25, revealed Wednesday that she hurt her shin during a slalom training run in Austria last week. The injury is so painful that it's a struggle to slip on a ski boot in her hotel, let alone ski down a slope.

If the games had started three days ago, Vonn wouldn't have been ready. She has time—and time is what she needs. The super-combined race doesn't begin until Sunday, and even that could be pushed back by adverse weather, which is in the forecast.

AP

U.S. Alpine Skier Lindsey Vonn answers questions during a press conference at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

"I hope I'm able to push through the pain and I'm able to still ski OK," Vonn said Wednesday. "I won't really know until tomorrow when I actually get on skis and they can actually assess the situation and see how bad it is."

To even get to this point, though, sure beats what she was thinking when it first happened—that her Olympics might be over before she even took her first run.

"She went from being really happy, as well prepared as you can be for an Olympics, to just hitting the bottom really hard," Thomas Vonn said. "The day of the injury was a very tough day."

Vonn elected to skip getting X-rays when the injury happened, fearing it might reveal something more than a bad bruise.

"I pretty much stuck my fingers in my ear and just pretended like I didn't hear what was going on," she said. "I didn't want to hear that my shin was fractured. At the time, that's what it looked like."

The U.S. Ski Team and USOC was aware of Vonn's injury last week, but other than that, the news was kept hush-hush. Her mother didn't even know, finding out about it in an interview with NBC's "Today" show that was taped Tuesday night and aired Wednesday morning.

Vonn insists she wasn't trying to hide anything, simply hoping the shin could heal in time. But with the training sessions beginning and the start of the super-combined looming, she felt she had to disclose the full nature of the ailment.

"I didn't want to announce it," Vonn said. "I'd rather it had healed by now. I wouldn't have had to say anything and I'd be able to ski fine. That wasn't the case and I wanted to tell you guys because if I'm not racing tomorrow or training, I wanted to explain myself before it was a big problem."

Vonn has skied in pain plenty of times before.

At the 2006 Turin Olympics, she took a bad spill in training, a fall that bruised her back and sent her to the hospital.

However, less than 48 hours later, Vonn—known then by her maiden name, Kildow—recovered in time and went on to finish eighth in the downhill.

That comeback to the course serves as motivation this time.

"I draw a lot of confidence knowing that I've done it before," Vonn said. "Torino, especially, was a really painful situation for me and something that I wasn't sure if I could even do. I was able to push through it and I competed. ... I've got to go out there and do the best I can with the situation that I have. Hopefully I can ski, hopefully I can ski well, and hopefully I can still get a medal."

Don't bet against it.

"She's a tough girl," said Bill Sterett, a U.S. Ski Team doctor who first treated Vonn when she broke her leg at age 13. "I think you can never discount Lindsey and how tough she is and how much she wants this."

Vonn did her best to smile through her news conference. She did, however, sigh occasionally as she talked about the pain in her leg and the possibility of needing to pull out of one—or all—of her five events.

"It's hard to stay positive, you know," Vonn said. "A week ago ... I was feeling great, I was feeling healthy, I had no problems. And now I'm sitting here today questioning whether I'll be even able to ski. So it's not where I want to be, by any means."

Vikings fans use billboard persuasion for Favre

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Last summer, coaches and players lobbied Brett Favre to join the Minnesota Vikings through text messages, phone calls and in-person visits.

This year, the public has started the persuasion process for them.

Driven to show their appreciation for Favre's storied first season with Minnesota, a group of Vikings fans has taken out advertising space on a digital billboard near the 40-year-old quarterback's home in Hattiesburg, Miss.

"Hey No. 4, do Minnesota fans love you and want you back next year? You Brettcha!" the message reads.

The ad came from a Facebook group that has grown to more than 122,000 people as of Wednesday. It's well short of the 4 million fans the group's title declares as a goal, but full of contributed photos, videos and posted messages from the fans to be mailed to Favre. Jay Tappe of Minneapolis decided to create the group the day after the Vikings lost to the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game.

"We never really got to give Brett a good send-off or a standing ovation or anything, because they finished the season on the road," Tappe said. "My thought was to put up a billboard that he sees every morning."

They've got a separate Web site for fundraising, vikesfans4favre.com, which reached the $2,600 needed to keep the billboard up for the month. Leftover money will be donated to the foundation of Favre's wife, Deanna, which helps disadvantaged women in their fight against breast cancer.

Tappe is trying to get her to start a chapter in Minnesota, too, and see if Vikings defensive end Jared Allen will record a video encouraging fans to join the cause. Allen, who nicknamed Favre "The Silver Fox," was one of his biggest fans in a locker room that welcomed him warmly after he called off retirement for the second straight year and signed with the Vikings.

So, can a billboard really help Favre make up his mind?

"It's ultimately his decision," Tappe said. "We don't want to be the ones that are pressuring to come back. We just want to say, 'Thank you.' He made a lot of new fans pay attention to Vikings football, and with the old fans everyone couldn't believe how great a season it was."

On the same Hattiesburg highway, U.S. 98, is another billboard with a similar message.

That one was purchased by Twin Cities sports radio station KFAN, which broadcasts the team's games and has a regular slate of Vikings-related programming.

"Dear Brett, Deanna and family: Thanks for coming to Minnesota. We'd love to have you back. Vikings fans 4-ever," the message reads, similarly using Favre's jersey number as a stand-in.

There's a commercial purpose for KFAN behind the ad, but the station wanted to send some good will too.

"Our main goal is just to do this on behalf of Vikings fans," promotions director Tim Hyde said. "It's a family decision for him, so we kind of directed the message at his family as well."

The KFAN plan is to keep the ad up for February at a cost of $1,800. It's not digital, hence the lower price from the other one.

For now, Vikings fans can only wait and hope. After the season Favre had at age 40, though, it's clear that he's wanted a year after skepticism about his health and his motivation.

"I honestly had pretty low expectations for the season," said Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak said. "I sheepishly admit that I thought getting Brett Favre was a bad idea. I was wrong. I didn't think he had it in him. He showed really the whole idea of what it is to be a winner."

Source: Braves make offer to Johnny Damon

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Braves appear interested in adding Johnny Damon to the top of their lineup.

The Braves have made an offer to the free-agent outfielder, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because no agreement had been reached.

Atlanta's offer is believed to be for one year and include deferred money. Damon's agent, Scott Boras, has said he is seeking at least a two-year deal.

The 36-year-old Damon hit .286 with 24 homers for the New York Yankees last season and likely would bat leadoff for the Braves.

Atlanta added another former Yankees outfielder in December when it acquired Melky Cabrera in a five-player deal that sent right-hander Javier Vazquez to the World Series champions.

Nate McLouth is set as Atlanta's starter in center field, and is the probable leadoff hitter if the team does not add Damon or another outfielder. Matt Diaz is expected to get most of the playing time at one corner outfield spot.

Braves manager Bobby Cox said last week he envisions Cabrera playing all three outfield spots and possibly sharing a position with Diaz.

Cox said the team is prepared to give 20-year-old outfield prospect Jason Heyward a chance to win a starting job in right field. Heyward made only a brief appearance at Triple-A last season and has fewer than 200 at-bats above Class A.

"Well, there's no reason not to give him a crack at making it," Cox said. "If he is too young, that's fine, too. He can spend some time in Triple-A. But if we think he's ready and he can help us, then let's go."

Heyward (6-foot-4, 225 pounds) has the power potential the Braves need in their outfield. He was voted baseball's top prospect by Baseball America after hitting .323 with 17 homers and 63 RBIs at three minor league stops in 2009.

"If he makes the team, he's playing - lefties, righties, everybody," Cox said.

The Braves' willingness to give Heyward an opportunity could keep them from engaging in a bidding war for Damon. According to reports, Detroit and Tampa Bay also have interest.

Boras did not return a call to The Associated Press on Wednesday. Braves general manager Frank Wren had no comment on Damon.

Budweiser caging meeting on Feb. 15

Teams interested in competing in the 2010 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League are asked to send a representative to a meeting on Monday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm with details about the opening of the league, ground rules, and playing schedule are expected to be discussed at the gathering. The league will open shop on March 15.

Entrance fee is $600 and the first 10 teams to register and pay their dues will receive free uniforms. Each team is allowed to have only 10 players.

This year's defending champion is Docomo Pacific, which defeated Ol'Aces in the finals, 88-80.

So far, eight teams have already signified their interest in joining the league.

For more information, call Elias Rangamar at 664-2502, Gabriel White at 234-6547, or Abner Venus at 234-5911. ***(PR)***

Monthly golf tourneys this weekend

Saipan Golfers Association will be holding its February Ace tournament this Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

Check-in time is at 9am, while tee off is at 10am.

Over at the Kingfisher Golf Links, Refaluwasch Golf Association will be having its February Ace qualifier also this Saturday.

Check-in time is 10:30am, while tee off is at 11:30am.

Tournament fee is $30, while greens fee is also $30.

RGA is still open for membership. Annual membership fee is $25. ***(PR)***

BELATED

From Page 44

him getting bigger and at the age of eight, the older Heo "forced" him to play again.

"He said I was getting chubby so he wanted me to exercise. He literally forced me to pick up the sport and I thanked him for that. I begged not to go because I was extremely shy but he forced me and sent me to practice with Jeff (Race)," Heo said.

"The first day of practice, I loved it and I couldn't stop practicing even in my house," he added.

From a hefty 8-year-old, Heo rose to become the top junior player in the CNMI. When he was only 14, he dominated his age group and had to move up to the 18-and-under division and even compete in adult tournaments.

"Tennis is my thing. I never get tired of it. I don't like doing several sports and being average at all of them. I want to be good at one thing and I can't be good at all things. I'll stick to tennis for a long time. My motivation of being better in what I do make me train harder and aim higher," Heo said.

Triumphs

At his young age, the 17-year-old Heo had his share of victories both in on and off-island competitions.

"I think the major win was when I beat Jeff (Race) when I was 12 or 13 in the PIC tourney. It gave me heaps of confidence," Heo said.

After stunning his coach, Heo went to represent the CNMI to POJC for four times and then earned a wild card in an ITF event in Fiji in 2008.

Last year, he made in to the main draw of tournaments in Fiji, New Caledonia, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

"My major breakthrough was when I reached the quarterfinals in Fiji ITF. I really played well and it took away a lot of pressure from me because I didn't have to worry about getting points anymore," Heo said.

Challenges

In the years he had been competing off-island and in ITF events, Heo also had his low moments, which he considers as challenges.

"The most challenging was my injuries. Due to injuries, I went through a couple slumps. It really brought down my confidence. My ankle and back injuries seem to come just when I was at my peak. I did a lot of physical therapy exercises at an academy to overcome and strengthen those injuries," he said.

He also considers the lack of enough tournaments on Saipan as a challenge, but is thankful that there are players on Saipan who helps him play in scrimmages.

"Another challenging thing is the training in Saipan. It's really tough to train as we lack players. I go off-island occasionally for training. Jeff has done a great job with me and my game and all the other players trying out for the Micronesian Games and former NCAA standout Kirk Schuler," Heo added.

Heo vowed to hurdle these challenges and continue to bring honor to the CNMI, which he hopes will remember him as the first player to make it the Junior ITF world rankings (No. 635 among 1,600 plus players).

"I'd like to be remembered as the first tennis player in the CNMI to gain an international ranking. I hope my success will serve as motivation for other kids. They can do it, too if they work hard," Heo said.

"Never satisfied with your current level. Always strive to be the best and work hard and aim for a goal always. Most importantly, have fun with what you do," he added.

NEARLY

From Page 44

both underwent a facelift, giving CNMI youth sluggers much-deserved better playing fields.

Teams in the Majors will play at the smaller "Tan Ge" field and 13 squads will compete for the championship, led by defending champion Ol'Aces. The Happy Market-backed Ol'Aces won over the San Antonio Dragons in last year's finals.

The Dragons are also back this year, joining the Bank of Saipan Red Sox, Tanapag Braves, Kagman Little Lions, Hustlers, McDonald's Survivors, Tanapag Falcons, Century A's, Shell Strikers, IT&E, As Matuis Twins, and JPO Enforcers in the field.

Ol'Aces and the Dragons will have an early rematch this Sunday as they square off in the first game at 10am. Other matches set for the opening day are Red Sox vs. Braves and Little Lions vs. Hustlers.

In the Junior League, which will be played at the bigger "Tan Ko" Ballfield, the Patriots are returning to defend their title. Joining them are Ol'Aces, Fielders, Red Sox, Kagman Lion Heart, IT&E Northern, Survivors, and TSL A's.

The Patriots will debut against Ol'Aces on Sunday in the first game in the Junior League, while the Fielders will take on the Red Sox in the second game.

Six teams are entered in the Senior League, including the defending champion Fielders. The five other squads are Ol'Aces, D-9ers, Kagman Lion King, Hustlers, and Hunters. There will be only one game in the Senior League during the opening day with the Fielders facing Ol'Aces.

Rosters and schedule for the Big League have yet to be finalized, but there are six teams competing for the crown.

Meanwhile, the opening ceremony for the SLLB 2010 season will begin at 8am and will have Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, House Speaker Froilan Tenorio, Senate President Paul Manglona, and other members of the 17th CNMI Legislature as guests.

TBK

From Page 44

as TBK seized the lead at halftime, 38-29.

Capalad, who was held to four points in the first half, took over in the second half, drilling 12 in the third period, as TBK widened the gap, 60-48. Capalad picked up where he left off in the fourth canto, firing 10 more points.

Manolo Manalo led Mobil's losing cause, scoring 24 points. He had to carry the load for Mobil, as Jun Estolas is still injured. Bryan Ajoste chipped in 15 markers.

In first game, Aqua leaned on a balanced scoring against the much-shallow bench of McGraw-Hill to post a 30-point win.

The Achugao-based team had six players scoring in double figures with Gil Gapor recording 18 points. Pedro Lizama chipped in 14, Ziddy Johanes, Jaymar Torres, and Jessie Mina tallied 13 each, and Glenn Aquino contributed 12.

After McGraw-Hill trimmed down Aqua's 17-point lead at halftime, 45-28, to 11 in the third canto, 54-65, the latter went back to business in the first few minutes of the final period en route to an easy win.

Peter Mendiola was the lone double-figure scorer for McGraw-Hill, exploding for 28 points. Mendiola sat on the bench midway in the fourth and none of his teammates stepped up to give McGraw-Hill a decent finish.

First Game

Aqua Resort Club 98 – Gapor 18, Lizama 14, Johanes 13, Torres 13, Mina 13, Aquino 12, Achas 8, Acosta 6, Sese 1.

McGraw-Hill 68 – Mendiola 28, Mendez 9, Cabrera 8, Hideo 7, Villagomez 7, Buniag 5, Matson 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-16, 45-28, 65-54, 98-68.

Second Game

TBK Auto Care 84 – Capalad 26, Bernardo 24, De Vero 13, Demapan 10, Pantaleon 9, Castro 2, Laquian 2.

Mobil 78 – Manalo 24, Ajoste 15, Jose 12, Ruluked 10, Wenceslao 5, Alcaso 3, Galzote 3, Tavanes 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 38-29, 60-48, 84-78.

GIT

From Page 44

Local sports explodes this President's Day weekend.

Tonight the Rites of Passage 8 "Fearless" features five fresh mixed martial artists from Tinian plus three never-seen-on Saipan fighters from Korea. Meanwhile, a large crowd bundled up in jackets and sweaters will watch undefeated Natibu versus one-loss Chura. It will be cooler at the Capitol Hill ballfield than inside the air-conditioned ballroom at the World Resort.

Tomorrow local triathletes prepare for the upcoming SportsFest and XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman with the Enticer, an ultra-friendly warm-up. There's something inspirational about seeing the transformation of Ben Babauta from playing a role to role model, the tenacity of Norma Ada or the sheer determination of Lewie Tenorio. And then to witness septuagenarian Jerry Facey plugging along on a mountain bike … oh my goodness.

Saipan's coolest tennis tournament, the Coconut Classic, is this weekend. Where else do champions get rewarded with painted coconuts? Coconutsville? Only a coconut head would say that.

Sunday is Valentine's Day, a time to express your love for someone. I can think of nothing that I loved more than seeing my son succeed on the baseball diamond. For mothers and fathers, they will have that chance as the season opens in just two days. Despite an out-migration from Saipan, 465 boys and girls signed up which rivals totals from previous years.

Valentine's Day also sees a beach volleyball tournament at the Fiesta, a tune-up for the upcoming Marianas Cup (not to be confused with the Marianas Cup in soccer, softball or windsurfing) later this month with professionals playing on the sands of San Antonio.

Monday is President's Day. That morning SDA is sponsoring a 5K fun run at 9am at Fishing Base.

For anyone wanting to work out and get in shape, Saipan is the perfect place. No excuses. The weather is fine for everything.

In other words, don't tell me…wait, let's borrow the words from the Statler Brothers, "Flowers on the Wall":

Countin' flowers on the wall that don't bother me at all

Playin' solitare till dawn with a deck of fifty one

Smokin' cigarettes and watchin' Captain Kangaroo

Now don't tell me I've nothing to do

On Saipan, there are a lot better things to do these days than smokin' cigarettes and watchin' Captain Kangaroo (God rest his soul).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	18	.640	–
Toronto	29	23	.558	4
Philadelphia	20	32	.385	13
New York	19	32	.373	13 1/2
New Jersey	4	48	.077	29

Southeast Division

Orlando	36	17	.679	–
Atlanta	33	18	.647	2
Charlotte	26	25	.510	9
Miami	26	27	.491	10
Washington	17	33	.340	17 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	42	11	.792	–
Chicago	25	26	.490	16
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	17
Detroit	18	33	.353	23
Indiana	18	34	.346	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	20	.615	–
San Antonio	29	21	.580	2
Houston	27	24	.529	4 1/2
New Orleans	28	25	.528	4 1/2
Memphis	26	25	.510	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	35	17	.673	–
Utah	32	19	.627	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	30	21	.588	4 1/2
Portland	31	24	.564	5 1/2
Minnesota	13	40	.245	22 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	41	13	.759	–
Phoenix	31	22	.585	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	31	.404	19
Sacramento	18	34	.346	22
Golden State	14	37	.275	25 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Miami 94, Atlanta 76
Toronto 104, Philadelphia 93
Sacramento 103, Detroit 97
Milwaukee 97, New Jersey 77
Orlando 107, Chicago 87
Charlotte 93, Minnesota 92
New Orleans 93, Boston 85
L.A. Lakers 96, Utah 81
Portland 108, Phoenix 101
Golden State 132, L.A. Clippers 102

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	53	535	412	1580	29.8
Durant, OKC	51	500	442	1517	29.7
Anthony, DEN	39	392	327	1149	29.5
Bryant, LAL	51	527	302	1426	28.0
Wade, MIA	52	491	350	1386	26.7
Ellis, GOL	48	494	225	1259	26.2
Nowitzki, DAL	51	445	338	1257	24.6
Bosh, TOR	51	444	351	1245	24.4
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Johnson, ATL	50	425	146	1084	21.7
Stoudemire, PHX	52	413	274	1100	21.2
Maggette, GOL	47	312	343	977	20.8
Jackson, CHA	50	375	208	1033	20.7
Randolph, MEM	51	421	197	1045	20.5
Evans, SAC	46	343	232	942	20.5
Kaman, LAC	45	375	156	906	20.1
Lee, NYK	51	428	162	1018	20.0
Rose, CHI	50	420	152	997	19.9
Gay, MEM	49	373	187	971	19.8
Boozer, UTA	47	367	185	919	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	220	356	.618
Howard, ORL	302	505	.598
Gasol, MEM	281	478	.588
Hilario, DEN	275	469	.586
Bynum, LAL	305	537	.568
Millsap, UTA	229	404	.567
Horford, ATL	279	496	.563
Haywood, WAS	188	335	.561
O'Neal, CLE	223	399	.559
Lee, NYK	428	768	.557

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	52	186	509	695	13.4
Camby, LAC	50	164	444	608	12.2
Noah, CHI	46	176	376	552	12.0
Randolph, MEM	51	221	369	590	11.6
Lee, NYK	51	130	453	583	11.4
Bosh, TOR	51	155	428	583	11.4
Wallace, CHA	48	97	428	525	10.9
Boozer, UTA	47	95	414	509	10.8
Duncan, SAN	47	152	355	507	10.8
Haywood, WAS	49	200	307	507	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	52	576	11.1
Rondo, BOS	48	471	9.8
Williams, UTA	45	439	9.8
Kidd, DAL	51	472	9.3
James, CLE	53	436	8.2
B. Davis, LAC	51	405	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	51	382	7.5
Wade, MIA	52	334	6.4
Duhon, NYK	51	320	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	8	0
Island Rebels	8	0
Man Amigos	10	1
Chura	7	1
SaiPal	8	2
Freedom Air Flyers	6	3
Ur Balls	6	2
San Roque	6	2
Hitz	5	3
Blazers	4	4
6-Pack	5	4
Go For Broke	3	6
Red Eye	3	7
Calikano-Falcons	3	7
Lancheros	3	6
G-Ballers	2	8
Ramblers	2	8
Berdax	1	6
Team Familia	1	7
X-Terminators	1	7
Team Fuegu	1	9

Fighters face acid test in Fearless

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Combatants will prove they belong to the octagon cage tonight when they see action in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 8: Fearless at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Tonight's event will feature 12 supporting bouts and a triple-treat main event.

"It will be a high octane, high energy, and definitely fast-paced. This is the Rites of Passage, fighters are out to prove themselves and impress the MMA scouts from PXC, Fury Fi (Fighting Islands), and Trench Warz," Trench Tech president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said.

"Fighters who win or lose, but fight very impressively will earn their 'Rites to Pass' and may be scouted to fight in more prestigious events around the region," Alvarez said.

The 11 supporting bouts will have seven Tinian fighters battling MMA combatants from Guam and Saipan.

All seven Tinian bets—George Manglona, Gerry Mundo, Carl and Pete Cepeda, Sigfried Enriquez, Johmar Untalan, and Craig Borja—will have their debut in Saipan MMA and are fighting out of Zengzung, which means shake in Chamorro.

Mundo is entered in the 135-lb. bout against Saipan's Jason Teregeyo. Manglona will be pitted against Saipan's Ben Duenas; Carl Cepeda against Guam's Mike Taitano; Enriguez against Saipan's Frank Demapan; Borja against Guam's Frank Benavente; and Pete Cepeda against Saipan's Denri Mality.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carl Cepeda will be among the Tinian fighters debuting in tonight's Rites of Passage 8: Fearless.

Other preliminary bouts will have Saipan's Derrick Manglona vs. Josh Cruz; Kev Estevez vs. Mark Nuque; Jay Muna vs. Brad Palacios; and Rick San Nicholas vs. Sully "Heavy Leggs" Stone.

In the three fights in the main event, it will be Saipan vs. Korea.

Korean Top Team's "Young Nam "The Hippo" Gu will challenge Chris "No Luv" Laayug in a 145-lb. fight, Kang "Dr. Kang" Bum Chang will face Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse in a 155-lb. bout, and Hyun Kyu "The Ace" Lim will square off against Slade "The Rage" Adelbai in a 180-lb. tiff.

"As for the triple main event, it will be very exciting to say the least. Korean Top Team pro fighters will be putting their high-evel talent and skills up against some of the best island warriors Saipan has to offer. Slade, Fasi, and Chris have put in two months of serious and hard training and are ready for the next level. I am not going to promise that they will win, but I do promise that they will fight to win and they will fight valiantly and with great honor for the CNMI," Alvarez said.

The first fight of the night will take place at 7pm and Alvarez is encouraging MMA fans to watch their initial offering, as for every ticket purchased in Fearless, Trench Tech will donate $1 to Haiti funds.

10 teams join reverse grass v'ball tilt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in NMIVA's grass volleyball tournament pose for a group photo before the games on Saturday at the Navy Hill field.

Ten teams competed in Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association's grass volleyball tournament for youth held on Saturday at the Navy Hill field.

The Dolphins, composed of Jomil and Dalenda, bested nine other pairs in the pool play elimination round and in the double-elimination playoffs. The Dolphins notched the championship after outclassing Get Silly's Amber Roberts and Andy Nutting in the best-of-three finals.

Strollers' Angelo Salas and A.J. Batallones placed third, while BFPTG's Josh Camacho and Zoe Jewell finished fourth.

Participants in the one-day tournament came from both the private and public schools on Saipan.

"We congratulate all the players who came out to try volleyball on the grass. It's not a game that many get the chance to experience. We are especially grateful to Mili Saiki for heading up the organizing committee that made this event possible. NMIVA wants to support and encourage more events for the youth as we believe that this is one of the paths we need to take to develop our youth for regional and international competitions," NMIVA said in a statement.

"We would also like to acknowledge J.R. Gechig of Island Volleyball Club for co-organizing this event. If you have a volleyball event and need help, let us know," NMIVA added.

The grass tournament had each team composed of one male and one female player. Female players were allowed to hit the ball from all parts of the court, but the male ones were prohibited from making a spike inside the 10-foot line and blocking the ball. ***(PR)***

Northern Passage eye off-island bikers next year

DAN KIMBALL

Participants, volunteers, and organizers of Northern Passage pose for a group photo at the upper parking lot of Palms Resort after the mountain bike trail race on Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

THE NORTHERN PASSAGE

After the success of the inaugural Northern Passage, the mountain bike trail event is aiming to lure off-island riders for next year's race.

Marianas Visitors Authority's Bruce Batemen, who led the awarding of medals to winners of last weekend's race, said they will market Northern Passage to Korea and Japan.

He said the Northern Passage is one of the activities on Saipan that will be of interest to tourists, especially those who are avid bikers.

"MVA said that they would make next year's event something special by bringing riders here from off-island. That's pretty cool, and I want this race to be worthy of the added exposure that will come Saipan's way," race organizer Brad Ruszala said.

Saturday's race drew 63 riders with Butch Sublemente, Tyce Mister, and Kieran Daly making it to the Top 3 of the full course. In the women's division, the Top 2 finishers were Kimiko Hasegawa and Jackie Van Dam.

There were two other courses, the rookie and short. Bob Ferrer and Maricel Mahilum won the men's and women's division in the short course, while Kathy Pagapular and Shogo Ando ruled the rookie course. The race started and ended at the upper parking lot of the Palms Resort Saipan with riders passing at least three challenging trails and a couple of uphill climbs.

Meanwhile, Ruszala would like to thank the following for making Northern Passage a hit: Wolf Mojica, National Honor Society of Marianas High School and Kagman High School, Stan Good, Dan Kimball, Thelma Cabrera, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Bill Sakovich, Russ Quinn, and Saipan Adventure Sports Club.

Ruszala also would like to acknowledge the event's sponsors: Palms Resort Saipan, IT&E, XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon, Saipan Bike Pro, Michelob Ultra, Brabu Pharmacy, Digital Motion, DFS, and Konflict Clothing.

"Thanks to all of our sponsors for contributing what they could to give Saipan an event to remember and hopefully the start of something truly special. Without our sponsors, our race wouldn't have been as special," Ruszala said.

NMC Foundation Open to tee off on April 24

To advance post secondary education in the CNMI, golfers will once again be meeting on the links at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort for the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, scheduled for April 24.

The golf tournament is organized by the NMC Foundation, a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher educational opportunities for CNMI students. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's educational programs and services.

"Over the years, the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers who are dedicated to helping the College," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta. "We are extremely thankful for their continued support and look forward to seeing them on the golf course in April."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the 7th Annual Northern Marianas College Open swings from the tee box at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

"We're also encouraging golfers who have not played in the Foundation Open before to join us this year," Babauta added. "All funds raised will help our students meet their educational goals, so it's a win-win situation for everyone."

With a shotgun start at 7am, the tournament is a medal play format. In addition to first, second, and third place prizes for the flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes. The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot at the designated sites will win significant prizes donated by the tournament's sponsors.

The entrance fee for the tournament is only $95 per player. Interested players are invited to bring their family, friends, and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause.

NMC Foundation is also asking companies or individuals who can contribute company Education Tax Credit, monetary or in-kind donations to sponsor the tournament.

A special sponsors' cocktail party will be held on April 23 at the Chambre Bar at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Those interested in sponsoring the event or who are interested in registering to play can contact the Northern Marianas College at 234-5498 extension 1050 or 1051. ***(PR)***

Saipan XLIV Super Bowl Scenes

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO AND ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guests at the Palms Resort watch action in the first half of the Super Bowl XLIV.

Docomo Pacific employees took time out to go to Club V and watch the Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints slug it out in Super Bowl XLIV.

Joe Flores, left, raises his cap, while Nemo Elieisar makes a thumbs-up sign after the Sainst beat the Colts.

Saints fans, who watched Super Bowl XLIV at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club, exchange hi-fives.

Two Japanese guests at Club V react to the action in Super Bowl XLIV.

Richard Benavente, left, is all smiles after winning a Samsung phone at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill's halftime raffle during the watering hole's Super Bowl XLIV last Monday. Joining Benavente in the photo is MAR-PAC team leader Tom Basa.

Gridiron fans enjoy the Super Bowl XLIV telecast at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill.

MARPAC sales manager Jojo Camacho, left, and IT&E's Brad Ruszala, right, congratulate Tommy Ehrman after the ITST staff won the Samsung phone raffle at Godfather's Bar.

Hard Rock Café Saipan operations manager Reynaldo Perez presents a Samsung phone to raffle winner Ehomas Sakuma, right.

Saints fans watching at Godfather's Bar celebrate after a missed field goal by the Colts.

The kids of the Lifoifoi-Evangelista-Pangelinan family are all having a ball at Hard Rock Café Saipan while watching Super Bowl XLIV.

Fighters face acid test in Fearless

PAGE 42

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bryant-less Lakers beat hot Jazz

PAGE 39

2009 MALE ATHLETE OF YEAR AWARD

Belated birthday gift for Heo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Second of a five-part series

(Editor's Note: On Tuesday, Feb. 16, NMASA will be holdings its 2009 Sports Banquet. To mark the occasion, Saipan Tribune will be publishing a series of articles that will pay tribute to the winners of the annual awards night.)

After failing to get the top athlete award in 2008, CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo will be up there on the stage of the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel on Tuesday to have his hand on the 2009 NMASA Male Athlete of the Year Award and receive a belated birthday gift.

ATHLETES of the YEAR

Heo, who will be celebrating his 18th birthday this Saturday, earned the annual award after a breakout year in 2009. His achievement last year include making in to the Junior ITF world rankings—a first for any player from CNMI—winning the title in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, being undefeated in local tournaments, and representing the Commonwealth in various off-island competitions.

The youth netter achieved all these after taking tennis just to take off those extra pounds.

Hooked

Heo said he started taking tennis lessons when he was just six years old. However, after only a few months, he quit for no apparent reason. Then his father saw

See BELATED on Page 41

Heo

TBK takes early lead; Aqua wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TBK Auto Care notched its second victory, while Aqua Resort Club prevailed in its debut in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

TBK edged Mobil, 84-78, to improve to a 2-0 record and take the early lead in the 15-team league, while Aqua routed McGraw-Hill, 98-68, in the other game of the double-header.

Mobil led in the first quarter, 17-18, but lost the driver's seat in the second period and never recovered.

Big men Kae Bernardo and Melvin Capalad made life easy for TBK, as they scored 26 and 24 points, respectively, and dominated the paint against the much smaller frontliners of Mobil.

Bernardo scored eight points in the first period and added eight more

See TBK on Page 41

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aqua Resort Club's Gil Gapor is sandwiched by McGraw-Hill's Marlon Cabrera, left, and Jacob Villagomez during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ol'Aces, seen here doing a drill before their title game against the San Antonio Dragons last season, will be back to defend the Majors championship in the Saipan Little League Baseball.

Nearly 500 youth to join SLLB 2010 season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The sports community will have a glimpse of the future of CNMI baseball on Sunday, as the Saipan Little League Baseball opens its 2010 season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The opening of SLLB's new season will bring together nearly 500 youth sluggers, aged from 9 to 18, and they will compete in four divisions: Majors, Juniors, Seniors, and Big League.

From this field, Saipan will pick players who will represent the Commonwealth to the CNMI District Meet, to the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament and then to the prestigious World Series. Last season, the CNMI Junior All-Stars earned a World Series trip.

Games in this year's SLLB will be played in the "Tan Ko" and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan ballfields, which

See NEARLY on Page 41

Git fit

Now that Payton has beaten Peyton, it's time to move away from the boob tube, rube. The Super Bowl may be football's greatest celebration, but it's also football's funeral.

If football fans were bears (yes I guess, some are Bears), they would go into hibernation.

No other major sport has such a long off-season. Unless the NFL Combine gets you excited, football fans basically go on a seven month vacation. Fortunately for us on Saipan, that coincides with our best weather for getting outdoors for all the sporting events coming up in the next few months.

For the record, I recently saw 68 on my thermometer one morning at my place on the leeward slope of Mt. Tapochau. One day the high was 76. I thought about buying a heater.

We are deep in a strong El Nino which means a drier, longer dry season than normal. While the cool won't last, the sun will. Saipan's best asset is the weather we have now and for the next four months.

See GIT on Page 41

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2